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*We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications: and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.*

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Mr. Asquith's statement in the House yesterday afternoon perhaps leaves matters as to the Kaiser's letter to Lord Tweedmouth much as they were. It can hardly allay the fears of many whom the "Times" has scared. In any case Mr. Asquith could hardly have said anything else than he did. It is at least extremely difficult to believe that the Kaiser could have made the amazing faux pas the "Times" credits him with. We all know that he is a man who does eccentric things and sometimes acts impetuously, and no Englishman can quite forget the Kruger telegram. But if he had the idea of influencing British Naval policy to the advantage of Germany, it would be obvious even to the least experienced that the worst way to set about it was to write direct to the First Lord of the Admiralty in terms that would reveal his object; but this is precisely what the "Times" lays to his charge. Not that we can pretend to be wholly satisfied that there is nothing at all behind this; and perhaps the "Times" is to be blamed even more for saying so little of the contents of the letter than for saying anything at all. In fairness to the public the "Times" should either have said nothing or have let the public know the truth, which it at any rate assumes to know in full. To hint the worst and avoid explicit statement is always just the way to do the most harm. It may be good journalism, for it is the most successful device for raising a sensation and a scare; but from the "Times" one has looked for statesmanship as well as journalism. And how did the "Times" come to know about the letter? Either its military correspondent has published information given to him confidentially, or he was told by some inferior informant. If, as he says, so many know all about the letter it would appear that he alone of this large number had not scrupled to make the matter public. If the letter necessarily bears the very grave meaning the "Times"

puts upon it, possibly it might be right to call public attention to it, but then the whole should have been told. On any other view no reference should have been made to it.

The visit of the King to Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman provided a good deal of ingenious surprise and naïve comment. It seems quite natural, as the King was leaving for Biarritz, that he should show his usual kindness and thoughtfulness by visiting Sir Henry. If a similar visit was never made before, as the newspapers so impressively tell us, the explanation may be that no Premier ever had influenza before in similar circumstances. We are happy to take the visit as showing that the Premier was strong enough to bear the strain; and that it confirms the more favourable medical reports that have been made during the last few days.

The Prince of Wales is to visit Canada in July and stay for a week while the tercentenary celebrations of the founding of Quebec and the nationalisation of the battlefields are going on. The Prince will preside at the consecration of the battlefields. British, French and American warships are to assemble at Quebec, and the historical pageant illustrative of the principal incidents in the development of Canada will not be omitted. How, by the way, will the famous scene of Wolfe reciting the "Elegy in a Country Churchyard" in the boat, previous to the climb up the cliffs, be represented? It may be too difficult; and, besides, his eccentric opinion that he would rather be the poet than the conqueror of Canada is perhaps scarcely in keeping with the celebrations.

The Zakka Khel difficulty is at an end. Sir James Willcocks and his men have done grandly. Mr. Morley read to the House on Monday the terms of the petition drawn up by the maliks and elders of the Afridis in jirga assembled. They undertook to hold themselves jointly and severally responsible for the good behaviour of the Zakka Khel, and begged Sir James Willcocks not to complete the ruin of the tribe "for sins of badly behaved minority". They were prepared to punish actual raiders, and to deposit rifles in earnest of their intention, which are only to be returned when the British Government is satisfied

The benevolent neutrality of the Afridis thus amounts to an abject appeal for clemency to the Zakka Khel recalcitrants, and its terms can only induce a regret that they did not move before the expedition was wanted.

At last we have the story of the mission and the sacrifice of Gordon told by one we can all trust. It has taken nearly five-and-twenty years to get an account free from the taint of the partisan, and we imagine that Lord Cromer has dwelt upon his words with—even for him—extraordinary deliberation. In a little footnote towards the end of his story of Gordon's expedition, he says that in 1896 he reminded Lord Northbrook of his opposition to the Government choice, and showed him part of the book now published. So that he has dwelt at least twelve years over his words—rare in any author! This footnote, by the way, will shock some Gladstonians. We wonder what Mr. Morley will think of it. Lord Cromer says outright that Lord Northbrook in his reply stated clearly enough that he had made up his mind never to serve with Mr. Gladstone again. We doubt whether any old colleague of Mr. Gladstone ever put it straighter than this.

Lord Cromer's account is a public document of surpassing interest. Since the publishing of Gordon's own Journal there has been nothing of equal value on the subject. We agree with Lord Cromer that the Journal should never have been doctored because of its references to Lord Granville; weak natures and fearful are ever for suppressing this, suppressing that, in order not to wound or shock susceptibilities. Through this editing of the Journal, the public did not get their view of Gordon true, Lord Cromer thinks. It seems to us, too, that Lord Cromer does prove—there is no other word for it—that Mr. Gladstone was to blame for putting off, ever putting off, the unpleasant necessity of a relief expedition if Gordon were to be relieved. That was a terrible lapse; a sin of omission which only the very great and popular idols can commit without ending their whole career absolutely. Humanity says "nothing but good of the dead", but history, unless it be of the lying sort, insists on "nothing but truth of the dead", and we may be quite sure what it will say of this unholy blunder by Mr. Gladstone. Lord Northbrook was clearly a man of stronger views than most of us have supposed.

Lord Cromer's estimate of Gordon's character is probably a very good one—its flightiness, indiscretions, and its highly disorderly way, these things combined with a rare nobility, devotion to great ideas and elemental Christianity. Lord Granville once said that it was hard to give orders to a man who was given over-much to consulting the Prophet Isaiah when in difficulties; and it is not surprising that Lord Cromer resisted as long as he could the appointment of Gordon. We must all see Lord Cromer's point of view now and his sagacity. At the same time, we may think that even Lord Cromer, broad-minded as he is, does not fully realise the value to a great nation of a man like Gordon. We could not afford to employ many Gordons for such jobs—even if we had them. They are costly, and very dangerous. But now and then the appearance and the work of such a man—and even his mistakes—act as a cleansing fire for nations. They are like an occasional war. The net result of Gordon is greater for good than the net result of Gladstone; or—and we say it as a great admirer of his—of Lord Cromer himself.

France has decided to send troops from Algeria and Tunis to reinforce General d'Amade. Mulai Hafid has apparently been making new troubles on the Algerian frontier, and in the hinterland of Casablanca the French forces have had to meet more than one determined attack repulsed not without loss. General d'Amade is said to regard his present strength as sufficient, but the best commentary on that is the despatch of a large body of Senegalese, to be followed by others, till he will have thirteen or fourteen thousand men at command.

The object of the Government is to enable him to strike a definitive blow at Mulai Hafid's followers. But will a thousand or two more troops meet the position? France has from the first under-estimated the task she had in hand, and she will have to do in the end what should have been done in the beginning. M. Clemenceau never tires of disclaiming desire to annex Morocco, but in fact that is what the situation means.

Russia, Austria, and Italy appear to have come to an understanding about the question of the Balkan railways. In a circular telegram to its representatives abroad the Russian Government states that it is ready to approve all Balkan railway schemes for the economic development of the Balkan States without obtaining concessions on its own account. Amongst these is the line connecting the Danube with the Adriatic, and Russia will exert its influence with the Porte on behalf of Serbia as regards this scheme. It prays the support of the Powers for the steps which Russia may take at Constantinople for this purpose. The Italian Government in answer to the circular states that it is in entire agreement with it and will support the application for the Danube-Adriatic concession. To round off the story, it is stated that Baron von Aehrenthal has informed the Italian Government that Austria-Hungary will raise no objections to the construction of this line. Italian suspicion of the motives of Austria in reference to the Bosnia-Mitrovitza scheme seems by these understandings to have been removed.

King Leopold and his Cabinet have at length been able to agree upon terms as to the Congo State which can be presented to the Belgian Parliament. This arrangement, known as the Additional Act, sets out the terms upon which Belgium is to take over the property and administration of the Congo State in the event of the Parliament agreeing to its annexation. It was laid before the Chamber on Thursday, and has been sent to the Congo Annexation Committee.

The gist of the armaments debate might be put this way. Is our national defence to be "good relations" or a good Army and Navy? The Liberal tail, as Mr. Bellairs puts it, would have the country live on optimism, on faith in other countries' good intentions. The Government knows better, but is afraid to repudiate such claptrap boldly. Liberals talk about war with the United States as "unthinkable". A strange way of providing against emergency, to refuse to think of it. Oh, too horrible! Talk about "old women"; what about elderly men? It is generally thought to be the characteristic of a coward to refuse to look unpleasant possibilities in the face. The Government thinks it statesmanship. The economist "tail of the party" goes a long way up the back, we think. Mr. Bellairs evidently had a crocodile or some other monstrous eft in mind.

Is the situation which has exchanged Germany for France as a possible antagonist really clear gain? Germany has been freed for the time from all anxiety as to the Baltic by the collapse of Russia, and has turned her entire attention to the North Sea. Her navy is concentrated, whereas that of France was divided by the great length of the Iberian Peninsula, with Gibraltar helping to guard the only sea road by which she could effect a concentration or rendezvous. In addition, the French navy was notoriously inefficient in administration and training, while the ships were slow in construction, and when in commission were laid up or under repair at easily ascertained periods, and we were always free from anxiety in the winter. The blockade of the French Channel ports from the Channel Islands was a comparatively simple affair compared with maintaining ward and watch off the Elbe on the Japanese scale at Port Arthur with the Elliot Islands at their disposal. That is one reason why Mr. Macdonald and his friends were so hopelessly wrong in arguing, under the teaching of Sir John Fisher, that "Dreadnoughts" are the only factors in naval strength, whereas the chief anxiety of the Navy is the complementary small craft—cruisers and destroyers.



Sir John Brunner, who seconded Mr. Macdonald's motion, made an attack on newspapers and their methods, which would have been more to the point if he had given some examples. He declared that (1) there were too many; (2) they lived by sensation; (3) it was barely possible for an honest man to carry on a newspaper nowadays. This speech has been actually praised in the Liberal press. Yet no sane person would ever, we suppose, contest the fact that Liberalism started sensational journalism in London. One by one the Liberal newspapers have dropped their price to a halfpenny, which we all know is the price for sensational matter. We never heard that Sir John Brunner or any other Radical discovered what a hateful thing sensational or new journalism was till it began to take sides against the Radical party.

If Sir John Brunner really means what he says, why does he not set to work to rescue and reform his journalistic friends? He has a large acquaintance no doubt among the proprietors, editors, and writers of the Radical newspapers. Let him persuade them to set a good example to the Conservative sensationalists—to drop their loud headlines, to desist from reporting in every thrilling detail murder, divorce, breach of promise, and suicide cases. If he will do this, he will greatly serve the public interest. The newspapers are full of horrors at times, and the more the public gets of this fare the more it hungers. We must say, however, that on the whole the leading and older Conservative journals show more restraint in this matter than some of the leading Liberal papers.

Mr. Haldane's annual pronouncement of his military policy is of the usual complacent character. Every detail is working most admirably in the best of all War Offices. The Territorial Army and the new special reserve is, according to him, a great improvement on the Volunteers and Militia. But it is significant that so little is voted for these objects, when we know so well that far more than is at present contemplated must be spent on those forces to make them effective. Presumably Mr. Haldane seems to imagine that the additional cost of the Territorial Army is to come out of the pockets of the already "fleeced" county gentleman. But that class have been so abominably treated by successive administrations that it would be sheer impertinence to ask them for further contributions.

The main feature of Mr. Haldane's policy appears to be to spend as little as possible at present, and to leave it to his unfortunate successor to find the money to make his ambitious schemes successful. Even the salaries of the wretchedly underpaid secretaries to the County Associations are apparently to be judged by results. As a fact the County Associations have so far been successful in obtaining men of ability to take these posts—generally at a miserable salary of £200 a year. So it seems only too probable that it will be reserved for a Unionist War Secretary to provide the largely increased sums which will be required to make the new system work. Mr. Haldane talks much of continuity in military policy, which is eminently sound. Still we hope he realises that he has been in an exceptionally fortunate position since he has become War Secretary. Unionist War Secretaries have always had Radicals yelping at their heels whenever they attempted to improve the Army. The present War Secretary, on the other hand, has always had the support of the Opposition whenever he has done anything to achieve that end.

A Committee is to be appointed to inquire into the relations between the civil and the military authorities when troops are called on to suppress riots. Mr. Wardle, a Labour member, raised the point on the Army Estimates on Thursday night in cases of trouble in labour disputes, though, of course, the law is the same whatever the cause of the troubles may be. If this delicate matter can be more precisely regulated, nobody will be better pleased than soldiers, who, as Mr.

Haldane said in the debate, hate nothing more than to be called out for civil duties.

Mr. Asquith's Licensing Bill, which is now published, has insured that at all by-elections, and the general election when it comes, the trade and the teetotalers will be in the front ranks of the combatants. The Bill is an even greater concession to the prohibitionists than they had expected, and the more they are pleased the more consternation and anger there is in the opposite camp. Both parties are busy preparing their forces, and they are formidable on either side. At Hastings the trade may be said to claim first blood, though the secretary of the United Kingdom Alliance declares, against the explanations of the defeated Liberal candidate, that the efforts of the publicans have had very little to do with the result. Neither, however, is likely to despise the strength of the other, and they can each stir up popular passion to a degree which is not possible on any other political topic, even though intrinsically it may be of much greater importance.

But the Bill is less serious in its bearing on the drink question than on property. It is the first time that property has been appropriated on the ground of public benefit without great liberality of compensation; and the teetotalers will urge that even the fourteen years' limit is too great a concession. The marking-down of brewery stock which followed Mr. Asquith's speech they explain as nothing more than the writing-off of securities which have become depreciated by the recklessness of the companies themselves. To a considerable extent this may be so, but the teetotalers are hardly the persons to put a fair valuation on the property they destroy. The enormous number of persons "scrapped" by the wholesale reduction of houses, and with totally inadequate compensation, will be a serious addition to the ranks of the unemployed. As the Bill is not likely to pass, it has been suggested that the clause relating to children in public-houses should be transferred to the Children's Bill; and this seems a very good suggestion.

The Bill for disenfranchising Conservatives is "off". This is what Mr. Asquith's reply to Mr. Watt on Thursday came to. The Plural Voting Bill is not to be brought in again this session; and, what is more, the Government will not say anything about the measure. Instead of being put in the cup, we believe it has been put in the tomb into which so many Radical measures are being shovelled just now.

Comment on bye-elections even when one is winning hand over fist is empty stuff as a rule. The figures of the battle of Hastings speak for themselves. But we must say that Sir William Harcourt's son put the thing with a quite wonderful frankness when interviewed after the announcement. "I know of no constituency", he said, "safe for the Liberal cause after my week's experience". It is a somewhat curious and unhappy coincidence for the Liberals that their first man to go down after a great anti-beer Bill should be a Harcourt.

Evidently these elections have made the Government very sick. The bread debate was nothing but a witness to Government soreness at Liberal failure at the polls. They wanted to find an excuse for it, and allowed the time of Parliament to be taken up by mere hustings sparring. Unionists have not played the game. To this no better answer was needed than the answer of the Sugar Convention. Dear sugar was due to natural causes more obviously than dear bread is now; yet Liberals had not the smallest hesitation in saying everywhere that the Convention was the sole cause of the dearth of sugar. Decency should forbid their objecting to Unionists in their turn twitting the Government with dear bread.

On Wednesday the result of the ballot of the engineers on strike on the North-east Coast was announced. The issue had been the acceptance or rejection of the provisional terms agreed to between the employers and the representatives of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers.

These terms have been rejected. A conference between Mr. Lloyd George and the men's representatives has been held, and information was published that an agreement had been come to which it was hoped would "be a step towards the solution of the difficulties"; but the terms of it are not disclosed. This ruinous strike of the shipwrights and engineers, involving other classes of workers, during six weeks has cost in wages and strike-pay over £120,000; and there are twenty thousand labourers besides in the deepest poverty who have not the strike-pay of the unionists; and the skilled non-unionists are in the same plight.

The Railway and Canal Commission has refused to approve of the proposed working agreement between the Great Northern and the Great Central Railway Companies; but there is to be an appeal which will be heard next Monday. On the preliminary point taken by the opponents, that the agreement was ultra vires as constituting an amalgamation, the Court decided in favour of the applicants. The other two points went in favour of the opponents. First it was held that the Act of 1858 which gave the necessary statutory power of agreement only empowered such agreements as should begin and end within fifty years and not any agreement merely made, as this 1907 agreement was, before the fifty years expired. Secondly, it has held that the meaning of "undertakings" in the Act of 1858 cannot be held to cover the making of the Great Central's new railway to London made in 1893, which entirely altered the relations of the two companies.

At the Westminster Palace Hotel the fight between the pot still and the patent still is now in full swing. The Commission has already a good deal of curious evidence from Mr. Tedder, the Chief Inspector of Excise, and Mr. Bramall, the solicitor who prosecuted for the Islington Borough Council when first the important question was raised—What is whisky? But there will be much more whisky lore imparted by the witnesses of the distillers from the three kingdoms, who all use both the pot and the patent still. Mr. Tedder informed the Commission that any member of the public acquainted with whisky can tell the difference between pot-still whisky and patent-still whisky—which last we gather is known as "silent" spirit.

But what does "acquainted with whisky" mean? Most of us probably know little more than the difference between good and bad whisky; and a certain Scotsman was of opinion that there was no bad whisky: only good and better. Mr. Bramall does not suggest that there should be no patent-still whisky, whether mixed with pot-still whisky or not, but that nothing should be sold as whisky without a full description on the label of the bottle of the materials and mode of distillation. But all whisky is not sold in bottle or from a bottle over the counter. Is the customer in that case to depend on his "acquaintance with whisky" for acceptance or refusal? A medical witness stated that he would not consider the patent-still product as whisky for medical purposes.

Lord Linlithgow is a real loss to the Empire. He was only forty-seven, and ill-health, aggravated by bad luck in the hunting-field—bad luck from which Lady Linlithgow also suffered—seriously limited his opportunities for public service. He was one of the young peers whom Lord Salisbury selected with such success for Colonial Governorships. When he went out as Governor of Victoria he was only twenty-nine. He looked younger, and his youth was emphasised by his modest ways. His success in Victoria showed him to be ideally fitted for the position of first Governor of the Commonwealth. Lord Hopetoun—his first title—was the most hospitable of Viceroys, but there was a limit even to his generosity, and probably the most painful public step he ever took was to ask to be relieved of his post because of the Australians' niggardly view as to the Governor's salary and allowances. His departure was a shock to the colonists, and was a reminder of the grit in his character which was forgotten in his geniality.

#### REDUCTION v. SAFETY.

THE time has surely come for very plain speaking in reference to the relations between the Navy and Parliament. The abject spectacle of the Ministry cringing to the Little Navy party in the debate on armaments last Monday, the forcible-feeble bluster of the advocates of reducing armaments, and the failure of the acting leader of the House to accept a clear and unequivocal declaration in favour of the two-Power standard, do not tell the whole story. To understand why discussion has been on a far higher level in the House of Lords, which has no power of control, than in the House of Commons, which has absolute power for the moment, we must study the debate on the Navy Estimates the following day. In a year in which the gravest anxiety has been manifested as to the state of the Navy, the discussion of the policy vote of the Navy Estimates was conducted without a single Cabinet Minister being present, and the exposition of policy was in the hands of a veteran who was "imperfectly heard", who on the previous day had expressly stated that only a member of the Cabinet could speak as to what standard we are to maintain in reference to foreign Powers, and who devoted the whole of his speech to the trivial details which lie on the fringe of a great subject as flotsam and jetsam are cast up by the wash of the ocean. With a positive genius for belittling a great occasion, Mr. Edmund Robertson began his speech by dealing with the petty affairs of a few coastguard stations, and then proceeded to deal with the pay of certain naval engineer officers. The offence is flagrant, for Mr. Robertson is well aware of the invariable custom of dealing with the larger questions of policy on the debate with the Speaker in the Chair, relegating all minor details to the discussion in Committee, and even then of dealing with petty grievances of pay on Vote 1 for the pay of the Navy and not on the important policy vote. The only attempt to deal with the shipbuilding programme was taken next in numerical order, the small amounts set down for commencing ships—items which we have already criticised—being held by him as sufficient because the aggregate of £750,000 is as much as the Unionists proposed in the Estimates they framed at the end of 1905. This miserable tu quoque argument of party politics is Mr. Robertson's highest conception of handling naval questions, and it is regrettable that in the naval debates any members of the front Opposition bench should think it necessary to defend or set up their own administration as a pattern. In proportion as the front Opposition bench manage to forget with the lapse of time that they were once bound to Sir John Fisher's chariot wheels, the effectiveness of their criticism has gained immeasurably, and this year has been on a decidedly higher level than on previous occasions. The failure to achieve a discussion is because there can be no discussion where there is no answer, or none is attempted, to such admirable speeches as were made by the leaders of the Opposition.

The representatives of the Board of Admiralty are lacking in knowledge and enthusiasm for their subject, and Mr. Lambert does not possess any of the debating power which used to characterise Mr. Robertson in earlier Parliamentary days as a leading spokesman of the Little England party. Indeed Mr. Lambert avowed that the Admiralty itself had no other formula than that "sufficient for the day is the programme thereof", a hand-to-mouth policy which quite explains the pleadings which enable a subservient Board to sleep quietly in bed in spite of the fact that in the first fortnight in February it was peacefully persuaded to reduce its Estimates by half a million pounds sterling, so that we have now before Parliament the smallest construction programme on record since 1899. Indeed it was proved in the debate on the reduction of armaments that the construction programme of the Admiralty provided one large armoured ship less than Lord Eversley, Mr. Murray Macdonald and their friends had assumed as necessary as a matter of course. In the end Mr. Murray Macdonald himself disclaimed all hostility on the part of his friends to the construction programme. In other words the Government have not even the excuse



of force majeure to plead for the reductions they forced on Lord Tweedmouth at the eleventh hour. To be able to say that there was no increase of the Estimates, it was necessary to cut down the expenditure on material, so that, as one speaker correctly pointed out, the expenditure on shipbuilding, repairs and armaments, from being over 2 to 1 in comparison with Germany up to 1907, sank in 1907 under the Government's economies to 1.5 to 1, and it is now 1.2 to 1. In 1907 the plea was the example in disarmament, and, that plea no longer availing, every conceivable device is resorted to for the purpose of exaggerating our apparent strength. But even after the Admiralty had postponed the commencement of all but three of the forty-four vessels to the last weeks of the financial year, the estimates still showed an apparent increase, so then it was decided for the first time to make a clean breast of the trick economies that had taken place in previous years in connexion with the depletion of stores, and to defer buying back these stores until 1909, when £700,000 extra will be required for the purpose. They were thus enabled to add the cost of the stores used up without replacement in 1907-8 to the estimates of the year, and to say that there was no real increase in expenditure. It is obvious that if it is right to reveal this large juggle with estimates of over a million pounds sterling, it was doubly wrong not to do so when the estimates for that year were under discussion.

For the materials on which we rely for considering the relations of Parliament with the Navy, we have only the discussion of what is known as the reduction of armaments debate last Monday. It was in this debate that the leaders of the governing party were forced by unkind circumstances to take part and to expose the hollowness of their adherence to the two-Power standard. It was thus that for the first time by cheers, protests, or ominous silence on the crowded benches we were enabled to measure the party temper and obtain an insight into the organic forces at work which will decide whether the defences of the country are to be preserved in the near future and peace with honour safeguarded. In saying this we do not lose sight of the fact that we are dealing with a body of men who are in an unusual degree amenable to electoral pressure, and therefore to any campaign in the press or on the platform which may be conducted this year. That indeed is the basis of our argument that the appeal in the nature of things must now be made from Parliament to the people. At present the only armament concerning which there is unanimous solicitude in Parliament is the army of voters known as the Territorial Army. It is the one force that, tied as it is to these islands, can do but little for the defence of the Empire, our trade or treaty obligations, and it is difficult to see how it will even fire a shot in war unless the Navy fails through the policy that is now being pursued. Yet economists like Mr. McCrae and Mr. Seely unite to push up the already mounting expenditure on this armament, while in the same breath they denounce the expenditure on regular forces which we can send to strike at an enemy in any quarter demanded by the interests of a vast empire and trade. Elsewhere the entire body of so-called economists are urging on the Government wholesale expenditure, which will produce a vast increase of the Civil Service Estimates and a corresponding disinclination to face our naval obligations next year. Mr. Balfour had no difficulty in showing that apart from shipbuilding there will be an automatic increase of two millions sterling in the Navy Estimates next year. In the meanwhile the National Liberal Federation, which embraces delegates from all constituencies, has passed a resolution in favour of further reductions of naval and military expenditure, and it is impossible to disguise the fact that the temper of the party, whatever may have been the showing in the division lobby on Monday, is such that the most dangerous weakening of the Navy may result. It was calculated, says a German writer quoted in the "Times" on Wednesday, that the English Liberals would starve the Navy for the sake of social reform, and "when the Conservatives returned to office Germany would already have obtained a lead which it would be difficult for England to recover". It is foolish

for the British public on the other hand to calculate on the Liberal Imperialists when we have the spectacle of Mr. Asquith before us. The process by which the Navy must be saved is the one that proved efficacious in 1893, when the City of London spoke with no uncertain voice, and stiffened Lord Spencer's Board of Admiralty so that Mr. Gladstone was defeated in the Cabinet. If we had the Navy League that we ought to have—and with all respect, neither the eponymous society nor the Imperial Maritime schismatics are by any means what we ought to have—Mr. Asquith's back could soon be stiffened and the Navy saved.

#### KING LEOPOLD'S SURRENDER.

SIR EDWARD GREY'S speech in the Commons on the Congo situation was not pleasing to the Belgian Government. Indeed, that Government has shown, somewhat ostentatiously, that it considers it more than displeasing. Offensive is, perhaps, the mildest word with which it has been described in Belgium, in official circles; but, like many strong medicines of nasty taste, there can be little doubt that it has done good. Proof of its good effect is found in the fact that the Government was braced up to fight the King so resolutely that King Leopold, a master in tergiversation, has at last recognised and accepted the inevitable. Negotiations and bargainings were carried on up to the last. It was only on Thursday afternoon that the additional treaty for the annexation of the Congo by Belgium was finally signed. The ink was still wet on it when the Premier, M. Schollaert, presented it to the Chamber. That body immediately referred it to the Committee of XVII, which it was announced would be summoned forthwith to consider it. There is still much work, more or less of a technical nature, to be done by the committee before its final report can be presented to the Chamber, but this will speedily be done. All the real difficulties were cleared away when the new agreement was arrived at with the Congo sovereign, and it is now as certain as anything political can be that the treaty will be ratified by the Belgian Parliament before its present session ends.

If England bases her right of intervention to bring about the suppression of abuses in the Congo on existing treaties, and mainly on the provisions of the Act of Berlin, the Congo Government relied for its immunity on the same treaties, or, at least, on the Act of Berlin. The Act of Berlin deals not only with the Free State of the Congo but also with wide territories lying in what is known as the conventional basin of the Congo. The French Congo and Uganda are, notably, part of these territories. What can England do? asked the acute exploiters of the Free State; and, in triumph, they answered their own question—Nothing. England, they said, has her hands tied. She is playing a game of bluff, and her Government would be in a great strait if it found itself obliged to do more than bluff loudly for the delight of its Liberal supporters. The Congo reasoners explained that even if the impossible seemed possible, and there were signs that a new conference of the signatories could be brought to act together for the alteration of the existing state of things in the Congo, England dare not summon such a conference, because forced labour such as she complains of in the Congo exists in Uganda, and concessionary companies with the exclusive right of collecting rubber and other produce, such as are complained of in the Free State, exist in the French Congo. Such arguing may appear childish here, but it passed for wisdom in Belgium, not only with mere adventurers, but even with those who are supposed to have inherited great wisdom and true statecraft. It is this that explains the rigid attitude of King Leopold, who held to the very last that nothing could shake his position. Before the outcries of England Belgian Ministers tried, more or less timorously, to convince the King that his position in the Congo was not impregnable. Were it not for these outcries, Belgium might have been content to leave the Congo Sovereignty untouched, and to trust to the King to carry out the reforms he saw to be necessary. The outcries which the King ignored were however too

strong for the Government, and the movement for annexation was set on foot. King Leopold consented, though not gladly, to the transfer of the Congo Sovereignty, but he insisted on retaining the vast domain which he made an appanage of the Crown. At this stage the Prime Minister, M. De Trooz, died. Before his death Belgium had given unmistakable signs that nothing would bring her to accept the Congo as a colony if it were burthened with the weight of that immense foundation, and thereby exposed to indefinite perils. M. Beernaert and the portion of the Catholic Party which votes with him opposed the treaty presented under M. De Trooz's Ministry as resolutely as did the Liberals and Socialists, and when M. Schollaert succeeded to the premiership it was clear that the foundation must disappear. M. Schollaert made its disappearance a condition of his acceptance of the premiership. King Leopold, always ready to modify in form, allowed the "foundation" to go. He substituted a "Fund" for it. This fund, "Leopold II. Fund", was to be voted by the Belgian Parliament. It was to come from the Congo exchequer—no possibility of a Congo deficit was recognised—and it was to be used for the furtherance of King Leopold's projects outside the Congo as well as inside of it. King Leopold's views spread far, and he required much for the improvement of the Congo and for the strengthening and aggrandisement of that colony and of Belgium.

The views of the Belgian Government did not soar as high, and the negotiations were far from being ended when England spoke. Belgium may be right in considering that in speeches made in Parliament by other than Cabinet Ministers there was much which Belgians have just reason to complain of. Abuse levelled at the person of the ruler of a friendly State is undesirable, though in this instance it may have been inevitable. It was not the abuse, however, which stung. It was Sir Edward Grey's declaration that if there is no reform, England may act alone. King Leopold's position changed the moment that declaration was made. It no longer seemed impregnable. What Sir Edward Grey said has called up, to all concerned in Belgium, visions of a ruined rubber trade. All Belgium believes that, in speaking as he did, the English Foreign Minister spoke with the knowledge that France would support England in any action she took. No official answer has been made in public to this declaration, for the cue of Belgium is to ignore all England does and to settle her own affairs in her own way without regard to the impertinent interference of foreign countries. This attitude is taken up to save the face of the Government at home, a thing most necessary on the eve of parliamentary elections. But if no official answer has been made, murmurs have been heard, and rumour has spread unchecked, rather aided, by the Cabinet, that if France stands by England, Belgium and the Congo State have secured the promise of German support in any event. If England "acts", the rubber and other produce of the Congo will be carried by German vessels, and England, it is said on all sides in Belgium, dare not interfere with the German flag. German support notwithstanding, the situation seemed uncomfortably tense in Belgium. So tense that it has been ended, for the King's acceptance of the additional treaty marks the end.

M. Beernaert and his party openly rejoice at what is their triumph. That aged statesman, who was ostracised by the Government for years, is now to be seen surrounded by Ministers, anxious to parade his friendship for them. M. Beernaert's approval of the additional treaty is a guarantee that the reforms called for are to be made, for, since it was first introduced he has been the most determined enemy of forced labour in the Congo. The Belgians do not accept in their fulness the charges of atrocities against the natives in the Congo. They consider that mainly modifications of the law, strictly enforced, are necessary, and its rigid enforcement will suffice to remedy every abuse. They do not foresee any deficit, and they find in the White Paper just published proof that the Congo is richer far than they themselves estimated; richer, that is, in mineral wealth. They are confident that there will be no deficit; but even if a deficit threatened, they declare that it is for them to consider whether they can support the burden or not. They will annex the

Congo, and they want no foreign advice and no foreign meddling. In other words, the dose which was needed was administered by England at the right moment. Belgium has found its good effect—but she is not thankful, yet.

#### AN OPEN BALTIC.

WHEN the Foreign Secretary was questioned the other day in the House of Commons about the Russian proposal for abrogating the Treaty of 1856 as to the Åland Islands he gave an answer which seemed to suggest that he was still undecided as to British policy. It is as easy to understand his hesitation as to appreciate the motives of S. Petersburg. By the agreement which the Tsar now wishes to cancel he is bound "not to fortify the islands or to maintain or create there a military or naval establishment". This, no doubt, is a vexatious disability in the case of admittedly Russian territory. But the words of what is practically a single-clause Convention are absolutely explicit, and the undertaking, given to Great Britain and France, was formally annexed to the General Treaty of Peace concluded after the Crimean War. In the preamble this promise on the part of Alexander II. was stated to be given in order to "extend to the Baltic Sea the harmony so happily re-established in the East, and thereby to consolidate the benefits of the general peace". There can be no doubt as to the binding force of the covenant in the forum of international law (wherever that tribunal may be), or on the honour of nations. Nor has it been affected by the dissolution of the union between Sweden and Norway, since the Dual Kingdom was not a party to the arrangement.

Unless, therefore, Great Britain and France are prepared to release Russia from its pledge, the islands will remain unfortified—at least for a time. We may put aside the idea of S. Petersburg openly repudiating its written word, for the simple reason that it would at once discredit the Anglo-Russian Convention of last year as so much waste paper. If one treaty may be defied because it has become irksome, why not another? Now it would not suit the book of Russia to invalidate the very advantageous bargain made with Great Britain as to Central Asia. Although official diplomatists, including some Unionists as well as Liberals, have defended the terms, it is generally recognised, even amongst Anglo-Indians of quite moderate opinions, that we gave solid benefits to Russia and obtained in return little beyond a general profession of friendship and good faith. We parted with cash and took paper in exchange—an intolerable position unless the other party meets his bills as they fall due. This elementary principle of commerce must be recognised at S. Petersburg, whose diplomacy, for many years, has laboured under the discredit attached to its breaches of contract both as to the Black Sea and Batoum, not to mention certain minor departures from straight dealing. We are all prepared to believe that these crooked paths have been abandoned, but the revived credit of Russia would be destroyed if the Åland Islands Treaty were set aside.

France, of course, would be disposed, if honourably it might, to yield to the Russian suggestion. It has no predominant and present interest in the Baltic, nor, we think, beyond an historic intercourse, any special obligation towards Sweden. The position of England is different. As the chief naval Power we are concerned in the freedom of the seas, and one of the most probable and immediate consequences of cancelling the Åland Islands Treaty would be that Russia and Germany, if they acted in concert, might proclaim the Baltic to be a mare clausum. In fact, a Russo-German declaration, if not accepted by Great Britain and other naval Powers, would have no value, since a sea which at one point in its Danish waters has an opening fifteen miles in breadth can by no diplomatic fiction be turned into a private lake. Still, the claim would cause great trouble in Europe, and, if urged at an unpropitious time, might become a cause of war. At best a Russo-German condominium in the Baltic would be oppressive both to Denmark and Sweden, which would either be altogether ignored or reduced to the



position of sleeping partners without a vote in the management of the concern. Eventually, we believe, the hypothetical compact between Germany and Russia would lead to a fierce struggle between them for mastery of the inland sea, and to a war, whichever might be victor, that would bring severe commercial distress and industrial paralysis on both. For the astute statesmen of Berlin know that, in spite of the recent collapse in the Far East, Russia is not a negligible force on land, and, with a strong naval base in the Åland Islands, might make a bid for supremacy in the home waters.

It is, therefore, improbable that Germany is sincere in the diplomatic support which at Stockholm she is believed to be rendering to the Russian demand on Great Britain and France. The rumour is, perhaps, well founded, for it may fit in with Prince Bülow's policy to affect warm sympathy with Russia's aspirations after maritime development in the West. Since he knows that Great Britain must, or at least should, withhold its consent, the better is his opportunity for proving that the friends of S. Petersburg may be found in Berlin, not in London. This is smart diplomacy, though the Russians are not likely to be deceived by the proffer of so platonic a cordiality. They know also that by no inducement which they could put forward would Germany be drawn into exchanging verbal encouragement for material assistance. It is not a cause—this seating of Russia upon a fortified and impregnable base in the Baltic—for which the Kaiser would challenge a quarrel with the British Navy. The Swedes would rather dispense with the proposed paper guarantee of integrity from Germany, Russia, Great Britain, and France, if the co-operation of Russia, can only be gained by allowing her to fortify the Åland Islands.

The cards are in Sir Edward Grey's hand and he has but to play them with judgment. His refusal to accede to the S. Petersburg suggestion may be made in the most friendly terms and would be accepted in an amicable spirit. Certainly it is not our interest that Russia should find in the west of Europe the naval extension which she so naturally seeks. The independence of Scandinavia is a British interest, second only to the independence of Belgium, Holland, and Denmark. The selfish and foolish diplomacy of the Norwegian Separatists has for the time impaired our means of preserving the integrity of the minor States of the North and Baltic Seas. The mischief is not irremediable. But all prospect of restoring the disturbed balance would disappear if Sweden were confronted with a rich, ambitious, and not painfully scrupulous naval Power, which had put a lock and key on the Gulfs of Bothnia and Finland. That this would be the effect of allowing the Åland Islands to be fortified is shown by Dr. Verner Soderberg's letter published in the "Times" of last Tuesday. This dense archipelago, stretching from the north of the Gulf of Finland right across the Baltic to a point within two hours' steaming of the Swedish capital, not merely provides an "eligible central position within easy striking distance of the entrance to the channels of Stockholm"; it would also give accommodation for "bar-racks and magazines dotted around impregnable anchorages".

If the Russian Government were permitted by Great Britain and France to convert its limited rights over the Åland Islands into a free user, it would at once be incumbent on Sweden to make herself into a naval power. This would not be an easy metamorphosis for a nation of less than six million persons, chiefly engaged in agriculture and not remarkably strenuous or self-denying, who have hitherto got along comfortably with light taxation and an unoppressive form of conscription. They have been content to maintain a few vessels, almost exclusively for coast defence, and naturally would prefer relying, as in the past, on their almost insular position to repeating, in their own proper persons, the exploits and hardships of their maritime ancestors. If the spur of necessity were applied, the patriotism of the Swedes would, no doubt, be stimulated into active operation, but it must be confessed that their reputation for toughness was not improved by their tame acceptance of the Norwegian secession. Dr. Soderberg, we notice, speaks of their

"self-imposed self-denying ordinance and self-effacement in the interests of European peace". These are not qualities that command respect amongst the objective statesmen of the present generation. If the Swedes relied for protection simply on their virtue, they might experience a painful disillusion. But it happens to be the interest of Great Britain, and of other Great Powers, that the Baltic shall neither be divided between the two leading territorials nor reduced into the possession of one of them. We have reason to prefer, here as elsewhere, the existing balance of power. The Baltic must remain an open sea in theory as in fact, and open it will remain so long as our battleships can go through Danish waters.

#### BREAD AND GAS.

WHENEVER—which is very often—this Government has recourse to the guillotine, the Minister in charge, usually Mr. Asquith, weeps over the hard necessity which compels him to violate every Liberal tradition. He cannot help himself; he is the victim of the inexorable tyranny of time. Want of time; and the Government that has so little time is quite willing that one of its own men should occupy the House with such a resolution as Sir J. Leese moved on Wednesday. This motion could not and did not mean anything but absolutely irresponsible talk, leading nowhere, for two or three hours. Amusing, perhaps—Lord Winterton added to the gaiety certainly—and no doubt a relief after Mr. Haldane on the Army Estimates; but for business, there could be no business of any sort in it. How could there be? The very words of the resolution showed that business was not meant. "This House is of opinion that the recent high price of bread in this country is due to natural causes alone." Indeed: and what does the opinion of "this House" on an abstract economic proposition matter? Who cares either way? Parliament is almighty outside of facts, but facts it has to accept and cannot alter; and whether the House of Commons think bread is dear because of one thing or because of another thing will not affect either its dearness or the cause of its dearness. Certainly it will not make it any cheaper. And we very much doubt whether anybody's view as to the cause of dear bread will be in any way altered or affected by the record of the opinion of the House. Even if the House consisted of six hundred and seventy economists—which Heaven forbid—such a resolution would be of doubtful value; for economists seldom give a direct answer to a question and hardly ever agree amongst themselves, except in the indirectness of their answers. But an assembly of economists would at any rate have a right to discuss the question; it would be their business. But an assembly of politicians! Why, even if they were unanimous on the question, it would not be conclusive; for, like other historic councils, they "may err, and sometimes have erred". But when the "opinion of the House" merely means the vote of a fraction of a Liberal majority, given solely on grounds of political convenience, the farce shows up in all its idle absurdity.

That is, of course, if it was really meant to be a contribution to economic discussion. But it was not. Probably the Government would have choked any item of the party off wasting time on futile economics; but this was electioneering, and the Government did not mind giving time to electioneering; though what particular advantage they are going to suck from this debate we do not quite see. The truth is the Government—naturally enough—is very sick at the course of the bye-elections. In little more than two years from the General Election they seem to have lost their hold on the country. Every time it is put to the test, the result is either a clean defeat or a largely reduced majority; the movement is all one way, and rapidly that way. They cannot pretend they are winning; they cannot dispute that they are getting decidedly the worse of the game; so they cry "It's not fair". Unfortunately they cannot in the children's way decline to go on with the game; they have got to play, whether they like it or not. But, at any rate, they have now found an explanation of their discomfiture which they think will put a better face on

things. And so they want to advertise it by solemnly fathering it on the House of Commons. They should have remembered that they would give the other side—the winning side in the bye-elections—the chance of retort and of *tu quoque*. *Tu quoque* is not an elevated form of argument, but is quite good enough for the Liberal whimper “It’s not fair”. Whatever exaggeration and inaccuracy there may be in Unionist electioneering statements as to the Government and dear bread, it is all quintessential truth compared with the deliberate lying about Chinese labour by which most Liberals won their seats in 1906; lying so impudent that the Government have had formally in Parliament to dissociate themselves from the charges made. They have apologised for the charge underlying the phrase “Chinese slavery”. And many Liberal private members have been doing the same, the excuse always being that they did not say “slavery” themselves and could not control their agents. We should like some evidence that either Ministers or Liberal candidates made any sort of effort to prevent their workers making the charges they now contritely abandon, but which were then helping them greatly in their elections. If ever a party was estopped from protesting against electioneering misstatements, it is the present Liberal majority in the House of Commons.

We would, of course, all prefer that electioneering should be impeccable in refinement, meticulously truthful, and sweetly gentle; but there is no sign—from any party quarter—of such a golden time coming. And it is really of no use to ask for absolute accuracy in electioneering speeches and writings. We agree that nothing which is known to be untrue, or even inaccurate, can be admissible. But to cavil at exaggeration, at high colouring, at round phrases and round numbers, is absurd. We admit that some of the “literature” used by Unionists has been too reckless in its language as to the Government and dear bread; and we do not like it. More care should be used. But the fact of the dearness of bread is a perfectly fair thing to bring into the electioneering arena. *Post hoc propter hoc* is a fallacy, no doubt; but if the claim is made that two things are mutually exclusive, it is a very pertinent answer to show that they do co-exist, though there may be no causal or any other connexion between them. In 1906 Liberals took up the position broadly—and still do—that Free Trade means cheap food and Tariff Reform dear food, and the whole of their electioneering was to the intent that the Liberal party was the party to support if you want cheapness; the Tory party was the party if you wanted dearness. To that—which was very effective electioneering—it is not only a fair answer but the right answer to point out that present prices prove that Free Trade does not necessarily mean cheap food, and that under the Liberal régime bread is dearer than it was under a Conservative régime. The cause may be what it may, but the fact stands, and it cuts into the Liberal representation as to dearness and cheapness, and dispels the impression it made.

We all know that the high price of bread is due to failure in supply, but the very fact brings out a disingenuous side, a falsity, in Free Trade electioneering. If Liberals are now to seek cover in bad harvests and adverse weather, they should in 1906 have put their constituents in mind of the powerlessness of Free Trade before a host of natural causes. Had audiences in 1906 gone home realising that, had they Free Trade or had they Protection, they would always be liable to high prices and dear food, there would have been very little, or very much less, enthusiasm for Free Trade than there was. Its electioneering potency would have evaporated. No one who took any active part in the last General Election can doubt for a moment that multitudes voted Liberal in the full belief that it would insure them against dear food, while voting Tory would mean starvation. We know of a place where, the morning after a Liberal victory at a bye-election, electors went into their baker’s shop and asked for and expected a reduction in the price of bread because they had got in a Liberal. They were righteously indignant at finding that their change of party brought them no cheaper loaf, nor even a bigger. (At the election following the constituency returned to its old Conservative love.)

“Give us this day our daily bread, and vote for Buxton.” What is that if not saying that if the people want bread they must vote Liberal? And to such electioneering it is fair and pertinent to parade in answer the dearness of bread with a Liberal Government in power.

By the way, it must, of course, be a member of a famous family of Liberal saints who turns the Lord’s Prayer to electioneering account. Do Mr. Buxton’s nonconformist supporters teach their children to add to the Lord’s Prayer the petition “Pray God, the Liberal get in”? We prefer Tory wickedness to Liberal piety. It is less profane.

#### THE CITY.

IT was a blow to dealers in the Home Railway market that the working arrangement between the Great Northern and Great Central was not allowed by the authorities to become operative, and attention is now centred upon the Appeal. Fortunately only a few days remain before a final decision is given, so that the uncertainty will quickly be removed. The introduction of the Licensing Bill gave scope for a great demonstration of the feelings of the “House” in regard to the proposed legislation. With scarcely a share changing hands, the various securities were “marked down” to the tune of about thirty millions sterling. If any doubt existed in the minds of the investing public as to what was the financial meaning of the measure, this action on the part of the Stock Exchange should have removed it. And no doubt it has, although there are not a few shrewd observers who think that the dealers have overreached themselves in their efforts to depreciate the value of Brewery securities. The nerves of the “House” have also been shaken by the publication of a statement by the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada showing a reduction in net profit for January of £88,000. The market had been prepared for something unpleasant, but not for so disastrous a result. Snowstorms and the inevitable reaction in trade after the “boom” are responsible for the falling-off in profit, and it is to be feared that worse is to come. February was a very bad month for weather in Canada, and the consequent increase in working expenses promises to make holders of the Third Preference stock very uneasy regarding dividend at the end of the current half-year. The company, however, has great recuperative powers, and it is too early yet to despair. In the meantime the directors may be congratulated on their forethought in bringing out the issue of Guaranteed Stock before the January figures were made public. Speculation is now rife as to how “House” operators in the stocks will meet their losses at the forthcoming settlement. The difficulty will be increased by the heavy fall in the stocks of the Mexican Railway Company, which are largely held by Trunk speculators. In explanation of the movement in these stocks it is stated that the pooling arrangements are in danger, and that more capital is to be raised in front of the preference issues. Neither statement may be taken too seriously, and the reason for the fall may easily be traced to the closing of a big speculative account.

The reduction in the Bank rate to 3½ per cent. has not helped markets much so far, having been anticipated and discounted; but it should tend towards a restoration of public confidence and so promote greater activity. Not since September 1906 has the rate been so low, and in the interval it has been as high as 7 per cent. Complaints have been heard that the Bank directors have unduly pressed upon trade by the maintenance of a high standard, but the exigencies of the situation have demanded exceptional measures, and the strength of the “Old Lady” now, after passing through a long period of financial stress, is evidence of the wisdom of their action. Practically every country in the world has passed through a crisis in the last two years, and London has had to bear not her own burdens only, but those of all the other financial centres. Gradually the weight has been lightened and successive reductions in the Bank rate have followed. This week’s movement may be taken as conclusive evidence that all danger of an immediate recurrence of the crisis has been removed. America may continue to give us anxious moments, but



at least she no longer possesses the power to draw gold from this country. On the contrary, practically everything negotiable has been sold or pawned in Europe, and to replenish reserves the gold taken from here must be returned. There is every prospect therefore of the Bank of England continuing to increase its stock of the precious metal, and as it accumulates so money must cheapen. At the moment the Treasury is holding the surplus money that should rightly be in Lombard Street, but the next few weeks should see heavy Government disbursements, and then we may hope for an appreciable increase in the demand for investment securities. Trade no longer calls for extraordinary supplies of money: there is a marked falling-off in industrial requirements. No other outlet, therefore, exists than the Stock Exchange for the employment of cash. Legislation may be attempted detrimental to various interests, but it can only temporarily interfere—not permanently check the inevitable revival.

The flow of new issues is rapid. Cheaper money is of course responsible, but it is doubtful whether the moment is yet ripe for approaching the investing public unless the goods to be offered are gilt-edged and cheap. That Salvador should come forward at such a time has occasioned surprise in some quarters. The Great Northern Central Railway of Colombia Limited issue of £153,500 Five-and-a-half per cent. First Mortgage £20 Bonds are part of £1,478,000, of which the interest is guaranteed by the Colombian Government. The offer of Russian Railway bonds is astonishing, the issue price being fixed at a figure which gives a return to the investor of  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. under that to be obtained by a purchase of Russian Five-per-cent. Bonds, with a prior guarantee from the Imperial Government. There seems no end to rubber flotations, notwithstanding the heavy fall which has taken place in the price of the raw material. A day of reckoning must come, when the men who have so readily given their names to deck prospectuses will wish they had acted with more discrimination.

#### INSIDE THE HOUSE.

(BY A MEMBER.)

IT is not until more than one month out of the Session has passed and gone that the discovery has been made as to the real political question capable of arousing members to a semblance of their former interest and enthusiasm. A certain excuse for their indifference may be found in the fact that no new measure of importance had been brought forward by the Government previous to the Education and Licensing Bills of last week. The debate on the Address out of the way, the House was asked to occupy itself over the reconsideration of the two Scotch Bills of last year: Small Landholders and Land Values. As these proposed enactments were only permitted to flit through the Commons on their way to another place, and a time limit of two days was imposed upon each of them, it was not to be expected that many members should spur themselves into any great degree of enthusiasm or indignation concerning them. Such time as was allowed in the case of the Small Landholders was occupied largely by the Scotch Secretary endeavouring to make clear to the House what the supposed advantages of the proposal really are, but as his attempts in this direction only confirmed the impression that his own mind is singularly free from information on the subject, most of his hearers remained similarly mystified. The House did indeed learn from him the reason for the setting up of a Land Court in Edinburgh to administer the Act rather than permitting this to be done by the County Councils as in the English Bill. Mr. Sinclair explained that this was due to the rugged and inhospitable character of the country, which makes it impossible for anyone of so timorous a disposition as a County Councillor to penetrate to the dwellings of his constituents and acquaint himself of their needs. Scotch farmers in the Lowlands, for whose benefit the Bill is designed, will doubtless take note of the Secretary's geographical impressions. Confusion of latitudes again seemed to possess Mr. Sinclair when

he spoke of deer forests: "if you lack matter abuse a landlord" is a favourite Radical maxim, and, failing in the former respect, Mr. Sinclair found an excellent field for the establishment of Small Holdings in regions well suited for the purpose were it not for the present encumbrances of deer and dukes. One is left to picture the Secretary for Scotland leading a devoted band of Small Holders back to the land, and with all earnestness and assiduity setting them to shovelling the snow and manuring the mountains of a Scotch deer forest.

With such speeding the two Bills were sent to their destined place, and we must suppose that "the cup" is by so much the fuller. This article by the way seems unaccountably to have disappeared. Efforts have been made by Unionist members on several occasions to have it out in the light, and many questions have been put to the Government; but Mr. Asquith will answer nothing, "all in good time" is the refrain; the all-hot Resolution of last year takes an unconscionable time to bake into a Bill.

Even Mr. McKenna's measure seems to have been received on the Unionist benches with a feeling of dull dislike more than of active hostility. Similarly with the Scotch Land Bills they are "cold mutton" to the House; the dish has been served up before, not indeed seasoned by the same chef, but it is not likely to be made more palatable by the added touch of Mr. McKenna's asperity, losing as it does the fleck of Mr. Birrell's wit. Fight of course the Unionist Party will, but one feels it is useless going all over the same ground again, and until the proper time comes the subject is dropped by common consent.

Fresh matter at length was forthcoming in the Licensing Bill, and astonishment was general that the present Chancellor of the Exchequer should have been induced to throw in his lot so unmistakably with the extremists; astonishment tempered by some satisfaction on the part of Unionists, however, who recognise the hostility which the Bill must arouse in the country. As a temperance measure its pretensions are at once exploded; to be a measure of justice it makes no pretence. Under its provisions the investor, whether large or small, has his capital depreciated and his dividends disappear: the publican's savings and his expenditure upon his property are alike seized, and he is put into the street with the unkind kick that he should have known better than trust to the State; the brewers' employees, like other workers in "decayed industries" in this free import country, can learn another trade. By this Bill many become poorer, but none the more sober. In these circumstances the question of Mr. Asquith's tactics has been much discussed. The support of the teetotal faction in the House can hardly balance the loss of so much popularity in the country. If the House of Lords throws out the Bill in globo, and the Education Bill follows it in the same form, an appeal to the country cannot be long delayed, and the Radical party will find "dear beer" a poor substitute as a party cry for the "large loaf" of the last election. True it is that the loss of fifty or sixty seats at present occupied by the faddists would by no means be regarded by the Government with unmixed dismay; but present indications seem to point to a far greater turnover than this, and to wander again in the wilderness after three years' inglorious troubling of the waters will make poor history for the Radical party. It would seem a heavy price to pay for Mr. Asquith's effort to insure the reversion of the leadership by pandering to the implacable.

In spite, however, of these incitements to party feeling, the House retained that impassivity which has hitherto been the remarkable feature of this Session. Wednesday evening brought with it the change, and the fiscal resolution was the cause. Uneasy at the progress the Tariff Reformers are making in the country, and scared by the trend of the bye-elections, the Radicals put up Sir Joseph Leese to twang once more the frayed-out Free Trade strings, and endeavoured to fan their fainting courage by shouting once more in chorus the tenets of a faded faith. No possible doubt can remain in the mind of anyone who was present as to the paramount position accorded to the Fiscal Question in the House of Commons at all events. The benches were crowded;

listlessness vanished and passion appeared. The mover of the resolution performed his task in the orthodox manner, and Colonel Seely, who seconded, took the Government under his protection and accorded the Opposition the smile of patronising pity which he deals out to all who disagree with him during the unstable passage of his own opinions.

Mr. Goulding moved an amendment from the Opposition side not very happily worded; he would have been better advised had he sought official counsel in the matter; as it was there was some dissatisfaction expressed on the Unionist benches and he lost a certain amount of support that should have been retained with better organisation.

Lord Winterton had little reason to thank the Radical party for the fairplay shown to him during his speech, but he was equal to his opportunities and more than equal to Mr. Mond. Mr. Austen Chamberlain and Mr. Lloyd George shared the last forty minutes between them, and Unionists had the satisfaction of feeling that the two hundred adverse majority was anything but a true reflection of the opinion in the country as exhibited by the four-figure victory at Hastings. If the corpse of Tariff Reform was buried at the General Election, its ghost would seem to require a great deal of laying.

#### THE CATTLE DRIVER'S CONSCIENCE.

THE parish is a large one, the weather wintry, the parish priest getting old, the curate tainted with Sinn Féin; and at the far end of the parish is a cattle driver, highly trained, but most inconveniently illiterate, which leaves him dependent on oral wisdom for his light and leading.

Six months ago that cattle driver was enlightened and led to drive cattle. He had heard the ranching denounced by the parish priest himself; therefore, it was right to drive the cattle. He had heard the reasons against ranching from the steps of the altar, and repeated forty times at the local meetings of the League; therefore, cattle driving was a patriotic duty, not to mention the chances of getting a fat stripe for himself out of the local ranch at half its market price. There was no difficulty whatever about communicating the cult of the cattle driver even to an illiterate man. In fact, his illiteracy could have made it easier, his mind being free from all ideas except the oral wisdom of the parish priest and his local branch of the United Irish League.

All that was six months ago, and the "lines" of the University Bill had not yet been accepted by the bishops. Then the Nonconformist Conscience said, "How can I give you British money for a Romish University if you go on driving cattle to discredit my statesmanship?" We can all remember that historic utterance. Then came Saul among the prophets, in the humble person of myself, saying in the London press, "Cattle driving will stop now", which greatly astonished the innocent correspondent of the "Times" in Ireland; and while he was on the wire, bishops and archbishops were laying out the method to stop cattle driving. It was hard on the old parish priest in the big parish, putting an episcopal caveat on his established code of parochial morality, but it had to be done. It was hard on the "Times". It was hard on the illiterate cattle driver. It was hard on everybody—except Saul, who at once made a name for himself as a prophet, for the reason that he was not a prophet at all, but simply a quiet person tapping the ecclesiastical telephone which regulates "the Government of Ireland", and sets illiterate cattle drivers forcing sectarian Universities from Nonconformist Radicalism.

Under an ecclesiocratic form of government, it is well to keep some number of ecclesiastics not committed to "the established policy", because these can be free to establish some other policy when it is required. The hitherto silent ones have but to speak, the hitherto speaking ones to be silent, and the thing is done, which can all be arranged in twenty-four hours under a well-organised ecclesiocracy. Yet the results this time are distinctly awkward. It was easy for the old parish priest to say from the steps of the altar, "the ranch is

the curse of Ireland"; but it is not so easy for him to say, "Please don't drive any more cattle until we get money for the University. As soon as we want secular money for some other ecclesiastical purpose I'll let you know, and we can start the pastime again". That would make things clear, even to the illiterate cattle driver at the far end of the big parish, but it cannot be said. It cannot be put in the local paper. It cannot be proclaimed at the local meeting of the League. In short, it cannot be communicated in any collective manner whatever, putting aside the awkwardness of the unfortunate parish priest having to preach black white in the short period of six months. In some cases it had to be done in six days.

Now, if that cattle driver had not been illiterate, he might at present be able to read something between the lines that would help to make the new policy workable, which shows, among other things, that illiteracy is not always most convenient for the ecclesiocratic form of government. As it is, all that can be done is to let the illiterate one know in some way that his reverence is against cattle driving, which is unsatisfactory. Right and wrong have always been determined simply by the word of his reverence, with the Church teaching most plainly that neither right nor wrong could change its eternal and immutable nature by time, place or circumstance. Yet here is our unfortunate cattle driver bound to believe, under pain of imprisonment or persecution, that the same thing is both right and wrong in the same place and in six months. No dictum in "scholastic philosophy" could straighten the situation, even for the acutest casuist. No ethic in "the constitution of the League" can explain it. No elasticity of the Nonconformist Conscience can stretch round the moral angularity of the proposition, even with the assistance of an enormous Parliamentary majority half sacerdotal and half atheist. Then, how are we to get it into the mind of the illiterate cattle driver at the far end of the big parish? He could follow his parish priest faithfully on either policy, for cattle driving or against it, but what is he to do when his parish priest is both for it and against it? He cannot even be told that it is the bishop who has spoiled the game, the ecclesiocracy being much too well organised for that. The only way is to communicate the new policy to him privately, in confidence; but the parish is big, the weather wintry, and the parish priest getting old. Besides, the illiterate cattle driver knows nothing of Universities, and might ask: "Thin, musht I give up me piece o' the prairie to plase those that's wantin' things that's of no use to me?"

Having waited for weary weeks, in the middle of the driving season, with no other work to decentralise his attention, and finding himself still in a fog as to why cattle driving should be stopped, without a clear word from his reverence or from the League, our illiterate cattle driver becomes restive, the more so as it is now full moon. He has begun to drive again. In some cases he has begun driving simply because of the clerical interference, which has occurred several times in the arch-diocese of Tuam, where his Grace was of the silent ones, and led against cattle driving after the Nonconformist Conscience had declared its financial intentions to "The Scarlet Woman".

The position of the local editor is as painful as that of the illiterate cattle driver. Six months ago he wrote eloquently for cattle driving, with the declared "approval of our revered clergy"; now he is expected to write as eloquently against it, with the declared approval of our revered bishops, while "our revered clergy" are silent, except those of them who had kept neutral in accordance with the ecclesiocratic necessity to come down on the convenient side of the fence. "Our readers" have to be considered, as well as our bishops, more especially "our readers" who cannot read. How are we to show them in accordance with the writings of the Holy Fathers that the same thing is right and wrong? Then the local editor may find it necessary to recommend cattle driving again after the Nonconformist Conscience has paid up. We want quite a pile more money for the "repulsive" system of primary and intermediate education, and if cattle driving can force the imperial purse for an unnecessary University, why not for the harmful and necessary schools? No, cattle driving is



too rich an asset to leave out of our political commerce, especially when there is a British Government in alliance with Irish crime; and the Nonconformist Conscience has been so long out of office that we can rely on its extended elasticity.

Yet we must not strain it into revolt. If cattle driving be overdone, the imperial purse might be shut, by John Bull if not by his pious purse-bearer; therefore, we coerce the local editor against reporting the drives. For instance, there was a big drive at Callow, Co. Mayo, some weeks ago, and though the local police are watching the boycotted farm, I cannot find one who has ever seen a line about the matter in print. The drives organised against Most Reverend Dr. Healy in the Tuam region have nearly all been left unreported by the faithful local editor. There must be at least an appearance of keeping faith with the Nonconformist Conscience; but there is that dreadfully illiterate cattle driver all the time at the far end of the big parish, unable to see the subtlety of the game which requires him to reorganise his conscience on contrary lines every six months under "the approval of our revered clergy".

It is a most delicate business. If we were to tell the truth to the cattle driver, he would certainly deny himself for a few weeks the luxury of ruining his neighbour, in order that the clergy might get £600,000 more; but then, knowing the truth, he might be tempted to tell it to somebody else, and the ecclesiocratic cat would be out of the Nonconformist bag, which would be worse than influenza. We could, of course, lay it down definitely that ruining the neighbour was wrong; we might even find texts in the Holy Fathers for it, and set the whole force of the Church to put down cattle driving for ever; but that would not be ecclesiological, and then, with cattle driving an established sin, what should we do for a "policy" in case "our revered clergy" wanted another £600,000 from the taxpayer on a future occasion? After all, cattle driving is only driving cattle, a considerable improvement on murder as an established policy, and apparently not less effective to get public money for private purposes. Indeed, the financial value of shooting people has been doubted for some time, and now we want a method that may keep life and Government as much at cross-purposes without running such risks of British disgust. Hence the need to make it appear for the present that cattle driving must stop, and at the same time to leave a moral back door open for the cattle driver in the future, when it may be again required to place some unfortunate statesman between the alternatives of failure and of finance contrary to his principles. We want our illiterate cattle driver, with all his faults. We want that triangular conscience and that polyangular morality of his. Without his assistance how could we impose at such a profit on the intelligence of the British public? He has served our purpose in the day of need, and though his illiteracy may for the moment be an incidental inconvenience, we know that in the long run, and on the average, illiteracy is a source of strength to the ecclesiocratic form of government, especially when operating through the Nonconformist Conscience in office.

PAT.

#### INFERENCES AT BRIDGE.—II.

IN my last article I laid great stress on the inference that, when the dealer has passed the declaration, he cannot have three aces in his hand. This is not only the most certain of all inferences at bridge, but it is also one of the most useful in actual practice. When you start primed with the information that the dealer cannot have three aces, and when there is only one to be seen in your own hand or in dummy, it at once becomes a certainty that your partner must have at least one of the remaining three, and very probably more than one. When no ace is visible to you it becomes an equal certainty that your partner has at least two; and just think how useful the knowledge that your partner can win two certain tricks may be to you. You cannot tell at first which ace or aces he holds, but you will soon be able to arrive at that by a process of elimination, and anyhow you know that he can be depended upon to win two of the tricks necessary

to save the game, so that your own task is lightened very materially.

This particular form of inference may be considerably extended, and it can be applied to other cards besides aces, although not quite with the same degree of confidence. When the dealer, having passed the declaration, produces good cards in two suits, especially in the two red ones, it follows that he must be very weak in the other two, otherwise he would have declared No Trumps.

If he has played from his own hand a winning card in each of three suits, one of such winning cards being an ace, he can at once be marked with nothing of value in the fourth suit, or again he would have declared No Trumps. When he discloses the entire command of one long suit, invariably a black one, it at once becomes obvious that he can have no certain card of entry in any other suit, otherwise he would have gone for what is known as a "one suit" No Trumper.

In this respect—I mean as regards the original declaration of No Trumps—a knowledge of an opponent's idiosyncrasies will sometimes help you to draw correct inferences. When a player who is notorious for making very light No Trump declarations passes the call you know at once that his hand is very little, if at all, above the average, therefore, if he shows moderate strength in two suits, it is generally safe to assume that he is practically impotent in the other two. On the other hand, when a player who is known to be a sound declarer, possibly even a rather conservative one, declares No Trumps, then you must be prepared for trouble. If you find that he is very weak in one suit, you may take it for granted that he is well ribbed up in the other three, and you should save what you can out of the wreck; but when the declaration has been made by one of those mad No Trump enthusiasts the case is quite different. He may, of course, have a thoroughly sound No Trump hand, but it is quite as likely that he has nothing approaching a justifiable call, and you should play a much bolder and more offensive game against his declaration than against that of a sound declarer.

An adverse No Trump declaration has a very different effect upon different players. It seems to have a sort of paralysing effect upon some people, especially upon comparative beginners at the game. Directly they hear No Trumps declared against them they appear to lose their heads altogether, and are prepared to give up the game as lost, but this is a very great mistake.

I have never come across any statistics on the subject, but I should think that it is well within the mark to say that not one-third of the No Trump declarations that are made at the score of love succeed in winning the game on that hand. Many of them lose the odd trick, and some even lose the game. The No Trump declaration is by no means the certain road to success that many players believe it to be, and there is not the slightest occasion to be frightened by it.

It has no terrors for the experienced player—far from it. The first thing that he does, after having satisfied himself that he is not in a position to double with advantage, is to try to realise what the declaration has been made upon. When it has been made by dummy the strength or weakness of it is apparent at once, with the added knowledge that the dealer has not got great strength in either red suit. When the dealer has made the declaration, each opponent has his own thirteen cards, besides those exposed in dummy, to judge from, and also, in the case of the third player, his partner's original opening lead, so that it really is not such an impossible task as it might seem to be.

There are many useful inferences to be drawn. Aces are the first things to think about. If an opponent has not got an ace himself and there is not one in dummy, the declaration has probably been made upon three aces. There may be great strength behind them, or there may not, but in all probability the holding of three aces is the basis of that declaration.

When an original No Trump declaration has been made upon protective strength in all four suits, no inference at all can be drawn from it, but this is only one type of No Trump hand, and not the most common. The commonest type of all is on one long suit, usually

a black one, with a varying number of useful cards in two other suits, and it ought not to be difficult for the opponents to realise, early in the hand, what that one long suit is. Take a very simple instance. The eldest hand opens with the 2 of hearts, the dummy puts down only two clubs, and the third hand has only two. He, the third player, can at once place the dealer with at least five clubs, as there are nine not accounted for and the original leader, having opened a four-card suit, cannot hold five clubs, therefore a long club suit is obviously the foundation of the No Trump call.

It is nothing but a waste of time to attempt the impossible. If the dealer, in his own hand and dummy's combined, has strength in all four suits, the game is lost, and there is no help for it, and all that can be done is to save as much as possible; but very few No Trump hands are of the cast-iron order, there is nearly always a vulnerable spot somewhere, and the one aim and object of the first-class bridge-player is to locate that vulnerable spot as soon as he can by drawing any inferences that his ingenuity can suggest to him. He is always on the look-out for these inferences, and they appear very obvious to his trained understanding, while they remain as a sealed book to the less observant and less experienced player. The object of this series of articles is to endeavour to break that seal, and to open the book to anyone who cares to investigate the contents of it, even though he may get but a passing glimpse.

W. DALTON.

(To be continued.)

#### AN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY GENTLEMAN : CHARLES WITHER M.P.

##### III.

TURNING over the letters or small effects of the dead gives a sensation that is like nothing else on earth—a very searching touch which goes clean through us. Something of it we feel even when we read through the faded letters and papers relating to somebody who has been dead for centuries perhaps—a curious traffic with shades, though here the sympathy or pang is wanting. How much more, should one open a locked drawer, blow away the dust—the dust will settle in such places—and take out things relating closely to those who were in our lives the other day! Sarah Jennings, Duchess of Marlborough, was not used to the melting mood, but an odd story was told of her by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. To annoy the Duke, she once cut off her curls. He took no notice of it; but opening one of his cabinets after he was dead, she found her curls carefully treasured. Thereat she burst into tears. Sarah Jennings dealt with Charles Wither in private as well as official matters. She quarrelled furiously with Walpole, who she felt had got the better of her over the investment of trust money in the public funds. But with Wither, who represented the interests of the Treasury and was one of Walpole's men, she was friendly after the slight brush over his fee buck. In 1728 she wrote to him from Blenheim that, at his recommendation, she had taken John Ashnorth as keeper; and "if he proves an honest man it will be well for himself as well as for me who shall always be kind to those that are so, and usefull servants". The Duchess has taken to farming with the keenness of Townshend over his turnips. Wither is to buy her some cattle for Windsor Great Park. "I have forgot the number of beef which I wrote for. If they are of a right age, Sir, no matter how lean, for I have some ready to eat when I go to London. . . . I remember I desired 8 sheep small wethers for I have a great deal of grass for them in Park, and I am told they should not be more than two yeares old because it will be near three quarters of a yeare before I begin to eat them. . . . I hope you will forgive all this trouble because I am sure there is nothing that I would not be glad to do to shew you with what truth I am your most faithful and obliged humble servant." She adds in a postscript that she desires "nothing of beef but small steers, all other things are troublesome and of no use, and they should not be more than three or four yeares old at most. I don't like cows they are so troublesome with their calves and not so good meat

as the others to eat which is my chief aim in this whole matter". Her contempt for cows was shown at another time when she declared her office of Ranger of Windsor Park—valued at nominally £1,500 a year—was worth only the milk of a few cows and a bit of firing. Wither perhaps first fell in with the Duchess when he wrote a warrant for his buck at Windsor, but later he was concerned in trying to settle the dispute between her and Mr. Grey Nevil, who persisted in sending, against her strict order, a carriage of goods through Windsor Great Park. He said it was a sash-marine. "Though he calls it", wrote the Duchess, "a thing with two horses, should that allowance be given, I know sometimes it would be a Sash-marine, and oftner a Waggon." Nevil said he would have the law of the Duchess. She tartly replied he might take whatever course seemed best to him—whereupon hasty Nevil burst the gates.

A dip more or less at random into Charles Wither's bag brings to light some delightful examples of the eighteenth-century model letter-writer. I have lit upon a little series of letters written to Wither in 1729-30 by one Thomas Hodges. He lived at Worting—the little village at the foot of the long hill between Basingstoke and Hall. I wonder which was his house at Worting. Was it the old house whose high-walled garden and rook-haunted park are pleasant to see as you toil up the dust to Oakley on a burning summer day? This Thomas Hodges was a firm supporter and friend of the Squire; and seems almost lost when "Witherus suus" is in town. The Squire can give him authentic news of what is going on behind the scene in high politics, can enjoy a pointed story, is "a connoisseur" in the arts. The Squire, too, has skill in the landscape garden: thus "Your alteration in the Garden [at Hall] is extremely beautiful and confesses the fine taste of its Professour. If the Ladys cld see it they would not be prevailed on to quit so agreeable a recess as Hall for the smoak and noise of y<sup>e</sup> Town. The Bower in the field which I went at y<sup>e</sup> same time to see is in a very great deshabelle from y<sup>e</sup> rudeness of our late Northern blasts and very much wants the fair Architects hand to refit it." Thomas Hodges' letters are letters. He never scrawls in haste. Each word is nicely chosen, each letter fairly formed; sometimes a phrase is delicately turned. These letters of Thomas Hodges give one the idea of a gentleman with well-spent and delightful leisure, a patriot in the fervent spirit of Cowper, or Gilbert White—who by the way must have been at Basingstoke Grammar School near by not long before Hodges lived at Worting—and a scholar to boot. Some of his letters to Wither are in good Latin.\* In one of these he sketches with a really charming touch or two the Duchess of Bolton, whose home at Hackwood, one of the noblest wooded parks in the South, lay hard by. "One of the most beautiful and admirable of women," runs the letter; "never was there more abundant mourning, never was grief . . . less feigned. All were grieved that one had been snatched from their sight whose like they would not look upon again. How beautiful she was!"

"Quæ vivæ forma! Quæ gravitas, et quod raro eyenit quantâ comitate condita!"

"She filled the proudest position open to a private person without exciting enmity or envy. For who could begrudge the good fortune of her who plainly was doing so much for the good of her own people?" Dryden's tribute to the great Paulet of Basing was not more felt than this.

At the time of these later letters Wither sat for Christchurch and was in close touch with Walpole. Two of his country neighbour's Latin letters refer to the treaty with Spain and the exasperated opposition of the "patriot Whigs" to Walpole. Walpole does not stand out to our view to-day as the heroic figure exactly. He has not struck on the imagination of posterity as has Carteret—the man of genius who did or left nothing beyond the fact that, commissioned by the King to make a Ministry, he failed and gave up in forty-eight hours. To Walpole belongs the credit of

\* Horace Walpole speaks of a certain Hodges who kept up a pretty correspondence with a friend in Latin cdes. Perhaps this was our friend.



acting whilst "patriot Whigs" talked. He saw how England supremely needed a period of peace and settlement, and this he secured, if not by lovely means. "He struck his finger on the spot." Our friend of Worting has no doubts about Walpole, the "Magistratus" (Wither was not writing classical Latin) of these pleasant letters. In 1738 he has been reading some papers on State affairs shown him by Wither. "One can see", he exclaims, "that the men who pretend that they are asserting Popular Liberty and burn with love for the common weal are giving vent to private enmities. . . . Practised in every evil art, they attach to themselves by bribery [!] the worst element in the State, not for a moment hesitating to plunge the country into war and bloodshed, to turn everything upside down simply in the hope of throwing the helmsman overboard and seizing the rudder themselves."

"These miserable little men would undertake burdens only Hercules could sustain. So we should laugh at the idle words they scatter among the people. . . . Can we be too thankful to the Minister who has exposed these intrigues and . . . has upset these wicked plots, excelling his traducers as much in courage and trustworthiness as he rightly is preferred to them in office? His predecessors are seen either excusing crime or covering it under the ægis of the King. . . . Therefore I congratulate you and the King —."

We find this staunch believer in Walpole equally assured as to the benefits of the Treaty of Seville. He is starting for Hall one day to see the garden, when an "amazing shower" keeps him indoors; and, with nothing else on hand, he goes through a series of letters by an unnamed very able person, which gives quite a chronicle of events from 1725 to the signing of the Peace. Presently he rises, refreshed. His anxieties vanish. "I congratulate you and myself that the honour of the Empire remains untouched, and that all our plans both can be defended and have such a defender. For the treaty comes out all the brighter in the light, and it is wonderful how the interests of the commercial classes were not neglected as some grumblers pretend."

One pictures Thomas Hodges as Wither's chief crony at Hall—"Tua consuetudo tantâ me tui cupiditate incendit ut non aliter tui absentis desiderium lenire possum quam crebris epistolis"—but others too must have missed Wither when absent from Hall. Customers in friendship there doubtless were for him through all this pleasant bit of very English countryside. The favour of his interest or of his advice is sought by various correspondents hereabouts. Alicia Wallop writes [from Hurstbourne?] in February 1738 "to Mr. Wither in Corke Street London", anxious to try her luck in the Lottery. She begs "the favour of you to spake to S<sup>r</sup> Robert Walpolle in my behalf that he should be Pleased to order my Name inserted for four Hundred tickets . . . if thought to many what he pleses. I perswaid myself he will not denie me this favour and the rather because S<sup>r</sup> I hope you will be so oblidging as to desire itt for me and beg no time may be defered in itt Least I may be to Laite and in dowing of itt you will very much oblidge S<sup>r</sup>".

William and Ann Beach write from Keevil to "Dear Nephew" on graver business. Will he of his kindness find some public work for son John, as they have other children not yet started in the world? Then there is Dick Edgcumbe—a familiar name in Walpole records—bent on sport and apparently a sort of picnicking at Litchfield. Wither is to meet him there and send "two pare" of sheets. But "the thing I shall want most is drink for my servants". It should be in bottles. Is Overton a likely place for such drink? All the other things are to be brought by the carrier, and the farmer's waggon must fetch them from Basingstoke. "God send us Good weather, and a Galloping fox, Dear Charles." J. Campbell is too old for sport in 1730—though Wither has made the roads so smooth in Windsor Forest he is tempted to try a hunt there—with the Royal Family. But what he really needs is News. How goes the great world? "Heir we know nothing, and some think that you about London know as much as we. Convince me of the contrary." Is it Peace or War? Will Parliament "at our meeting be as hott on this accompt as formerly"?

Wither, as shown by his mem. about the wrangle between Ashnorth and Persol, hated litigiousness. He warned Parson Sholberry of Longparish not to go to law. Sholberry, however, is a man with grievances heavy to bear. He seems, by a letter written to Wither in 1730, to be a fighter; hard-bitten as Parson Gale in "Katerfelto"; perhaps a rough-cut diamond. "The Man on y<sup>e</sup> Hill, whose Throat is bigger than his Heart, and whose Nose is flatter than his Witt, wants to tool me in for his Engine. I am safe in telling Mr. Wither that I will hold him fair, and play him at his own Game. Sir I thank you for your wholesome advice against Law. Tho I am too weak for an offensive Warr yet every Worm acts a defensive part (it being y<sup>e</sup> eldest Law of Nature). Mr. Boulst has made many Appointments, and as many Disappointments. This is known to more than myself. Had I serv'd both Churches any time 15 [shillings?] a Sund<sup>y</sup> for each w<sup>d</sup> have been better than 20 will be for one Church only 11 Weeks, but to be turn'd out of Ash for another to come in my Room, to quitt a Curacy, y<sup>e</sup> I may ride 20 Miles a Day for 15 a Day, for a few Weeks only, all Circumstances consider'd, is very hard. But harder still when even that is stopp't to pay—I can say no more; I burst w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Thought." Nevertheless Sholberry does say more, and he orders a summons to be served on the foe who is doing him out of his deserts. If he is to be devoured he vows he will be a bone in the throat of the swallower. "If I must lose my money let me have some sport for it. Russell and Widmore, two Lawyers, let them scratch each other, 'tis as good as Catt-baiting." If Sholberry preached as pithily as he wrote, he was scurvily done indeed.

There are many other letters and household bills—druggists', haberdashers', barbers', wigmakers'—which Mr. Ellice Hicks Beach and myself found among the papers of Charles Wither; but to set them out would take many more pages. So here we leave Wither and his circle. It is not hard to understand what Southey's "Scholar" meant in saying that his "days among the dead" were passed—or how Cargill came to live more with the dead than with the quick. There is a strange fascination about these pale records of figures that once pulsed with life and passion. At first only their "quaintness" tickles us. But, as we pore over them, the men and women begin to take shape and personality; and, if we pore long enough, they live in the imagination. So that out of many an old bundle of letters is matter, though it seems the least likely, of which may be woven an enchanted carpet to carry us back to another century.

GEORGE A. B. DEWAR.

#### ON SOME MODERN MUSIC.

THE first of Mr. Beecham's five orchestral concerts was given by his New Symphony Orchestra at the Queen's Hall on 26 February. The series is one of unusual interest and novelty, and it is in great part made up of modern English music. I am glad to see that the name which most frequently occurs is that of Mr. Delius, whose "Paris" was given at the first concert. I have heard no recent English music so expressive, so full of sombre poetry, as that strange "Apalachia" which Mr. Beecham was the first to give in England some few months ago, and which he is repeating at his fifth concert, in May. I remember that some of the critics were perturbed by finding a slave song at the root of so large a first growth; whereas what is certain is that such primeval cadences have had much to do with the formation of Mr. Delius' un-English quality of mind. He is not indeed, I understand, more than half English; but what a boon for a musician to be half German!

Among the other modern composers who are to be heard at these concerts two others are English, Mr. Holbrooke and Mr. Bantock. There are a few good songs at almost every concert, and music by Smetana, who is not often enough heard here, and by recent French composers, César Franck, Fauré, Debussy; and, above all, there is to be some Mozart. Nothing could be more refreshing to the mind than this mingling

of older and newer music, nothing more instructive. It is easy to learn lessons from it, for if Fauré, for example, vanishes away into a thin mist at the starry coming of Mozart, is not that one way of realising the truth about one's contemporaries?

I choose the name of Fauré, for I have been hearing a great deal of his music lately, not without some impatience; and I find myself wondering why this music which seems to me so trivial should seem to be really good music to people really musical. I speak of England, for his time, though not past, is passing. There, Debussy is taking his place: will he before long do so in England? I hope so, and there seem signs of its probability. It is true that the influence of Fauré is to be traced in some of the music of Debussy, but so, to take a more notable example, was the influence of Liszt visible in the music of Wagner. Yet just as Wagner transformed a very pretty air of Liszt into the delirious and enchanting cadences of the flower-maidens in "Parsifal", so, on his smaller scale, Debussy does over again, very much better, what he may have learnt from Fauré or another. Prettiness, which more than occasionally defines some of the music of Liszt, though there, in that music, are far other worlds beyond it, is precisely the epithet which best qualifies the main part of the music of Fauré. Take for instance the Quartett in C minor, which one hears so often. I heard it at the last concert of the very interesting Concert Club, and I would not like to judge it by that performance, in which the first violin shrieked down the more temperate voices of piano, viola and 'cello. But I have heard it done delicately, and though I liked it better, I have never been able to take any serious pleasure in its prettiness, so empty, or in the faint feebleness of its charm. Charm of a kind, if you like, the charm of artificial flowers; drawing-room music which everyone finds it easy to like. Yes, that is it, it is easy to mistake this music for good music; it is so sweet and swift and ornamental, like a primrose-coloured bird fluttering in a cage; it chirps, inside gilded wires.

It was at the same concert of the Concert Club that I heard, for the third time, those songs of Miss Smyth of which I have already spoken here. What struck me on the third hearing was the closeness with which the sounds followed the words, like a veil floating about a face, in a wind busy with its outlines. There was no copy, but companionship; the music seemed to have been in the poet's mind before words came to him. Beauty and fidelity are rarely found together in this hazardous mingling of two arts; the poet loses, or the musician. But to take one of these songs, "La Danse", a poem of Henri de Régnier, would it not be difficult to read those words any longer without hearing, almost visibly, the coiling cadences of swaying sound?

The method of Debussy, in his choral setting of "The Blessed Damsel" of Rossetti, which was given at Queen's Hall on 29 February, for the first time in England, was thought by the examiners of the Académie des Beaux-Arts in 1893 to be too modern, too Pre-Raphaelite, altogether too obscurely foreign, above all too vague. It was about that time that a French man of letters called Gabriel Sarrazin, who had been spending a good deal of time in London (I used to meet him at Maddox Brown's), brought out a very valuable book on modern English poetry, containing prose translations, done very faithfully after the originals. It was this book which did more than any other to introduce poets like Rossetti to a small but attentive French public, already somewhat acquainted with Swinburne, whose "Laus Veneris" was translated by Vielé-Griffin and the whole of the "Poems and Ballads" by Gabriel Mourey. Verlaine knew it all in English, Mallarmé also, and I remember the curiosity of the literary salons and cafés about English poetry and metre. "What is the longest line that Swinburne has ever written?" Moréas would ask anxiously, naming a line, I think, of twenty syllables as the longest he had himself achieved. The whole Pre-Raphaelite school had its vogue then in Paris, and it was towards a poet and painter like Rossetti that Debussy naturally turned for suggestion and material. He used Sarrazin's translation, modifying it a little for his purpose, and unfortunately having to omit the stanzas spoken by the lover in his own person, in spite of their dramatic value, because he had

chosen to write "un poème lyrique pour voix de femmes". Otherwise the music, which is partly spoken in recitative, partly sung by a single voice, partly by voices in chorus, is a careful and almost too deliberate attempt to render, not only the mood and feeling of the poem, but the painter's details of "golden bars", "citherns and citoles", and the procession of the heavenly handmaidens

"whose names

Are five sweet symphonies:—  
Cecily, Gertrude, Magdalen,  
Margaret, and Rosalys."

The atmosphere, especially in the orchestral background, was indeed delicately indicated, "vague in distant spheres", vaguer than Rossetti, drawn out into a more sentimental sweetness. Where the music was at its best was when the words seemed furthest off, and strange mysterious combinations of sound floated up out of the orchestra, tenuous, plaintive wailing of the strings, rich chords on the harp, all quite angelic and suitable.

It can scarcely be said that the voices in the Queen's Hall performance did justice to the vocal part of the music. The voice of the narrator was thin and ineffective, and the voice of the soprano, though it was full and resonant, had no mystery in it, but was busy and buzzing, like a fat fly in a spider's web, as a witty lady characterised it. But, apart from the actual quality of the voices, and their insistence, can it be said that the actual writing for them was of equal beauty and suggestiveness with the writing for the orchestra? I think not. Not life, but pale images of life, rise for us at the sound of this ghostly and wandering music, of Watteau dances, Beardsley ballets, "ariettes oubliées" of Verlaine. There is no drama in Debussy's music, so that the lover is shut out from the angelic communion of "The Blessed Damsel", and Pelléas is passionless. His music is often a kind of meditative comment on some motive out of poetry, Rossetti, Baudelaire, Maeterlinck; or else a "garden under the rain", or a vision of pagodas, or a "sentimental landscape". And, to sit down at Beethoven's great feast of the Ninth Symphony, after this "banqueting on a wafer", is it not, to quote again the witty lady now grown serious, "nourishing"?

ARTHUR SYMONS.

#### A PLAY OF FANTASY.

I WENT the other day to the New Royalty Theatre, to see "The Philosopher's Stone" produced by "The Play Actors"—a corporation whose aims are akin to those of the Stage Society. On the same evening the Stage Society was producing a play on its own account; and thus the extreme fullness of the New Royalty was a pleasant sign of increase in the number of people who care about this sort of thing. Of course a rather wide margin must be left for the people who go merely because they have nothing better to do. One reason for the popularity of these Sunday performances is the sense that you are doing a rather bold thing in attending them—a sense that is rooted ineradicably in the breasts of all who are old enough to remember the Sundays of the mid-Victorian era. I confess, however, that me this memory does not save from a vague sense of gloom. There is that in theatrical art which needs the public, needs the spontaneous flocking-in of the unrelated units of a great public. Without them one is conscious of a void, a void which cannot be filled by "subscribers", however numerous. I look forward to the day when the whole vast public will be so enlightened, so eager and curious, as to flock to the experimental dramas which now perforce are condemned to hole-and-corner production. That day will never come; but I insist on looking forward to it.

Distinctly an experiment is "The Philosopher's Stone", written by Mr. Isaac York, whose very name sounds distinctly experimental, and is not, I conceive, more fantastic than its owner or assumer. A desire to mingle the impossible with the actual is the hall-mark of truly fantastic minds. Quite prosaic people may delight in an impossibility carefully insulated from



actuality. They will accompany you gladly into fairy-land or cloud-cuckoo land, through the looking-glass or to the other side of nowhere, and will come back pleased and refreshed. But they will be bewildered and vexed if into their own well-ordered area you suddenly introduce a fairy, a god, a monster, or any such phenomenon. And that is just what you cannot resist doing if you really love fantasy. It is not enough for you that there are strange realms afar. Flying visits to them are not enough for you. You insist that the dwellers in those realms shall return your visits. Far more strange and dear they are to you when you see them in sharp contrast with the people who walk this humdrum earth; and by their presence you are reconciled to your surroundings. Shakespeare did not leave Puck, and Peaseblossom, and those others, in fairy-land: he whisked them to "a wood near Athens"—as near Athens as was compatible with the fact that the wood was in the heart of Warwickshire. Nor did Heine care much about the heyday of Olympus: it was the fallen gods, working at this and that trade in Germany, that struck the chords in his fantastic bosom. "Once a fairy, light and airy, married with a mortal", sang Sir W. S. Gilbert, and the idea so haunted him that, years later, he founded on it what is perhaps the most delicious of his operas. Then there was Mr. Anstey's "Tinted Venus"; and there was Mr. Wells' "Wonderful Visit", the story of an angel's adventures in England at the close of the nineteenth century. Superficially, Mr. Wells is less fantastic now than when he wrote that story. Yet, if you think for a moment, are not all his sociological books about the future founded on the idea that this earth will in due time be populated by a vast majority of angels? He knows subconsciously that the thing will not be. But if it *could* be, where (he subconsciously argues) would be the fun? And so he writes yet another treatise, describing the future in yet greater detail, and with yet more angelic earnestness. He is the most fantastic genius of his time.

Far more modest are the demands of Mr. Isaac York. He, like the earlier Wells, is content with one fantastic visitant. Her name is Mimi; and her origin, so far as it can be traced, is that the sea washed her up in a basket upon the shore of Brittany, when she was still a baby. Much of the mystery of the sea clings about her. Shells are her playthings, and the winds are her playfellows, and her mentor is the sea. With the sea she often communes; but she is "afraid of people", and at their approach hides herself ever in the cave which is her dwelling-place. The scene in which her way of life is made known to us is very prettily written. But, at the entrance of ordinary "people", it becomes clear that Mr. York has not listened to ordinary human speech so attentively as he has listened to the speech of fairies. The most important of these people are David Vaughan, a young painter who has genius; Osca Elisson, a young painter who has not genius, and whom the programme describes as "the man of pleasure"; and Lady Diana, who, in lieu of surname, is described as "the woman in love", and under whose auspices the others are yachting. It is evidently Vaughan that she loves; and of him Elisson is rather jealous. "I wish", says Elisson, "she would turn those aristocratic orbs on my six feet two". That is an extreme example of Mr. York's indifference to human speech. A fairer example is Vaughan's declaration that "the whole of this holiday has been robbed for me of its pleasure by my physical inability to draw". He succeeds, however, in drawing Mimi, for, says Lady Diana, "this work shows an inspired pencil". Such speeches as these go dangerously near to defeating Mr. York's primary aim, which is to accentuate the fantastic against a background of realism. It needs some exercise of good-will in us to believe in the reality of people who converse in this amazing mode. Granted this good-will, the first act is delightful, and an earnest of a happy evening. Mimi's wild heart has fluttered timidly out to Vaughan, who, in his turn, is enraptured by her. Lady Diana, a self-sacrificing woman, offers to take Mimi back with her to Paris. Will Mimi adventure herself into the world of men and women? She communes with her mentor, the sea. And the sea bids her "go and learn".

So far, so good. But, in a play of this kind, everything depends on whether the fantastic element and the realistic be interpenetrated throughout, each one duly mingling with the other, never lost in the other. In the second and third acts of "The Philosopher's Stone" the fantastic element seems to me to disappear utterly. Mimi sits constantly as a model for Vaughan's pictures, and conceives a very ardent passion for him. It is a fault in Mr. York's technique that we are left for some time under the impression that Vaughan is wildly in love with Mimi. As a matter of fact, it is Lady Diana that he loves. He persuades Mimi to live under his roof, merely because he thinks Lady Diana does not care for him. A year elapses, and Lady Diana (always self-sacrificing) urges Vaughan to marry Mimi. Mimi overhears him saying that he loves Lady Diana, and in a passionate scene declares that she has not the slightest desire to marry Vaughan. She protests that she wants merely freedom and excitement, and falls back on "the man of pleasure", who has all the while been urging her to come to him. Well, in all this there is nothing at all implausible. But my objection to it is for that very reason. Why should Mimi have been a sea-maiden at all? Why should she not be an ordinary peasant? Nothing in her behaviour, or in what befalls her, is conditioned by her strange origin. And the result is that when, at the beginning of the last act, we are switched back to the coast of Brittany, and find Mimi dwelling in a cave by the sea, we wonder what on earth she is up to. We have quite forgotten that there ever was anything odd about her. We are out of tune for any fantasy in connexion with her. And when we hear that she has borne a baby which she has "given to the sea", we are inclined to make no more allowances than would be made in any ordinary case of infanticide. Nor are we prepared for what happens when "the man of pleasure" comes to implore her to return. While they are sitting together on a rock, she winds her hair about his neck, strangles him, and "gives him to the sea". Some critics would say that a scene of this kind is essentially impossible on the stage. Such a scene, certainly, can more easily be impressive in a book. But if it be discreetly stage-managed, and acted imaginatively, it can be impressive in the theatre, too. Well, the stage-management was good enough, and there was plenty of imaginativeness in Miss Inez Bensusan's acting. Nevertheless, the scene was not impressive. We could not take it as fantasy, having known Mimi for two years or so as a quite normal and un-sea-maidenly young person; and as realism it was, of course, out of the question. I respectfully urge Mr. York to do the second and third acts of his play all over again, taking as their pivot the inherent strangeness of Mimi. Then the last act will be as enjoyable as the first; and the whole play (when such phrases as "inspired pencil" have been struck out with a blue one) will be a good specimen of a kind which is delightful.

MAX BEERBOHM.

#### IN THE TWILIGHT.

THE lock was quite crowded with boats when we capsized. I went down backwards for some few feet before I started to swim, then I came spluttering upwards towards the light, but instead of reaching the surface I hit my head against the keel of a boat and went down again. I struck out almost at once and came up, but before I reached the surface my head crashed against a boat for the second time and I went right to the bottom. I was confused and thoroughly frightened. I was desperately in need of air and knew that if I hit a boat for the third time I should never see the surface again. Drowning is a horrible death notwithstanding all that has been said to the contrary. My past life never occurred to my mind but I thought of many trivial things that I might not do or see again if I were drowned, and I swam up in a slanting direction hoping to avoid the boat that I had struck. Suddenly I saw all the boats in the lock quite clearly just above me and every one of their curved varnished planks and the scratches and chips upon their keels. I saw several gaps among the boats where I might have swum up to the surface, but it did not seem worth while to try and

get there, and I had forgotten why I wanted to. Then all the people leaned over the sides of their boats; I saw the light flannel suits of men and the coloured flowers in the women's hats and I noticed details of their dresses quite distinctly. Everybody in the boats was looking down at me, then they all said to one another, "We must leave him now", and they and the boats went away, and there was nothing above me but the river and the sky and on either side of me were the green weeds that grew in the mud, for I had somehow sunk back to the bottom again. The river as it flowed by murmured not unpleasantly in my ears, and the rushes seemed to be whispering quite softly among themselves. Presently the murmuring of the river took the form of words and I heard it say, "We must go on to the sea, we must leave him now".

Then the river went away and both its banks, and the rushes whispered, "Yes, we must leave him now", and they too departed, and I was left in an emptiness staring up at the blue sky. Then the great sky bent over me and spoke quite softly like a kindly nurse soothing some little foolish child, and the sky said: "Goodbye. All will be well. Goodbye." And I was sorry to lose the blue sky, but the sky went away. Then I was alone with nothing round about me; I could see no light but it was not dark; there was just absolutely nothing above me and below me and on every side. I thought that perhaps I was dead and that this might be eternity, when suddenly some great southern hills rose up all round about me and I was lying on the warm grassy slope of a valley in England. It was a valley that I had known well when I was young, but I had not seen it now for many years. Beside me stood the tall flower of the mint; I saw the sweet-smelling thyme flower and one or two wild strawberries; there came up to me from fields below me the beautiful smell of hay and there was a break in the voice of the cuckoo. There was a feeling of summer and of evening and of lateness and of Sabbath in the air; the sky was calm and full of a strange colour, and the sun was low; the bells in the church in the village were all a-ting and the chimes went wandering with echoes up the valley towards the sun, and whenever the echoes died a new chime was born. And all the people of the village walked up a stone-paved path under a black oak porch and went into the church, and the chimes stopped and the people of the village began to sing, and the level sunlight shone on the white tombstones that stood all round the church. Then there was a stillness in the village, and shouts and laughter came up from the valley no more, only the occasional sound of the organ and of song. And the blue butterflies, those that love the chalk, came and perched themselves on the tall grasses, five or six sometimes on a single piece of grass, and they closed their wings and slept, and the grass bent a little beneath them. And from the woods along the tops of the hills the rabbits came hopping out and nibbled the grass and hopped a little further and nibbled again, and the large daisies closed their petals up and the birds began to sing.

Then the hills spoke, all the great chalk hills that I loved, and with a deep and solemn voice they said, "We have come to you to say goodbye".

Then they all went away, and there was nothing again all round about me upon every side. I looked all round me for something on which to rest the eye. Nothing. Suddenly a low grey sky swept over me, and a moist air met my face, a great plain rushed up to me from the edge of the clouds, on two sides it touched the sky and on two sides between it and the clouds a line of low hills lay. One line of hills brooded grey in the distance, the other stood, a patchwork of little square green fields, with a few white cottages about it; the plain was an archipelago of a million islands, each about a yard square or less, and every one of them was red with heather. I was back on the Bog of Allen again after many years and it was just the same as ever, though I had heard they were draining it. I was with an old friend whom I was glad to see again for they had told me that he died some years ago—he seemed strangely young, but what surprised me most was that he stood upon a piece of bright green moss which I had always learned to think would never bear. I was glad too, to see the old bog again and all

the lovely things that grew there, the scarlet mosses and the green mosses and the firm and friendly heather, and the deep, silent water. I saw a little stream that wandered vaguely through the bog, and little white shells down in the clear depths of it. I saw a little way off one of the great pools where no islands are, with rushes round its borders where the duck love to come. I looked long at that untroubled world of heather, and then I looked at the white cottages on the hill and saw the grey smoke curling from their chimneys and knew that they burned turf there, and longed for the smell of burning turf again. And far away there arose and came nearer the weird cry of wild and happy voices, and a flock of geese appeared that was coming from the northward. Then their cries blended into one great voice of exultation, the voice of freedom, the voice of Ireland, the voice of the waste, and the voice said, "Goodbye to you, goodbye", and passed away into the distance; and as it passed the tame geese on the farms cried out to their brothers up above them that were free. Then the hills went away and the bog and the sky went with them, and I was alone again as lost souls are alone.

Then there grew up beside me the red brick buildings of my first school and the chapel that adjoined it. The fields a little way off were full of boys in white flannels playing cricket. On the asphalt playing-ground just by the schoolroom window stood Agamemnon, Achilles and Odysseus with their Argives armed behind them, but Hector stepped down out of a ground-floor window and in the schoolroom were all Priam's sons and the Achæans and fair Helen; and a little further away the ten thousand drifted across the playground going up into the heart of Persia to place Cyrus on his brother's throne. And the boys that I knew called to me from the fields and said, "Goodbye", and they and the fields went away. And the ten thousand said, "Goodbye", each file as they passed me, marching swiftly, and they too disappeared. And Hector and Agamemnon said, "Goodbye", and the host of the Argives and of the Achæans, and they all went away and the old school with them, and I was alone again.

The next scene that filled the emptiness was rather dim: I was being led by my nurse along a little footpath over a common in Surrey. She was quite young. Close by, a band of gypsies had lit their fire; near them their romantic caravan stood unhorsed, and the horse cropped grass beside it. It was evening, and the gypsies muttered round their fire in a tongue unknown and strange—then they all said in English, "Goodbye". And the evening, and the common, and the camp fire went away. And instead of this a white highway with darkness and stars below it, that led into darkness and stars; but at the near end of the road were common fields and gardens, and there I stood, close to a large number of people, men and women. And I saw a man walking down the road away from me, towards the darkness and the stars, and all the people called him by his name. And the man would not hear them, but walked on down the road and the people went on calling him by his name. But I became irritated with the man because he would not stop or turn round when so many people called him by his name, and it was a very strange name. And I became weary of hearing the strange name so very often repeated, so that I made a great effort to call him that he might listen so that the people should stop repeating this strange name. And with the effort I opened my eyes wide, and the name that the people called was my own name. And I lay on the river bank with many people bending over me, and my hair was wet.

DUNSANY.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### SWERVE IN BILLIARDS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

2 March, 1908.

SIR,—I think the real difference between my views on the behaviour of a billiard ball and those put forward by Mr. Glenny and Mr. Vaile lies in the different estimates of the time required for a spinning ball to acquire a motion of pure rolling. In signing myself as I do,



I do not lay claim to any authority on matters such as these; I adopted my signature merely to indicate that my standpoint is theoretical; but I can give other authority for my estimate of one-twentieth of a second. It is to be found in Dr. E. J. Routh's "Dynamics of a Rigid Body", Part II. It is based on practical measurements; but I forget the authority for them.

Thus I still adhere to my statement that the ball will soon roll along the table. I am quite willing to accept the statements of your correspondents that the ball does swerve; but I do not think the true explanation of the phenomena observed has yet been given. We require a force at right angles to the direction of motion of the ball.

Mr. Vaile and Mr. Glennie both remark that the ball will apparently still be spinning around a vertical axis—at least so far as the eye can judge—at the end of its run. This may be; it is not necessary that the displacement of the axis of rotation should be great, and it will probably be very small. But the displacement will be in a plane at right angles to the direction of motion, not in a forward direction at all. To explain this at length would, I fear, take up too much of your space. There is nothing mysterious about the "gyroscopic principle" to prevent displacement.

I have no wish to prolong this discussion, interesting as it has been, and much as I have learnt from it. I should like, however, to hear any further views either Mr. Glennie or Mr. Vaile may like to express.

Yours faithfully,  
A MATHEMATICIAN.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

S. Stephen's Club, Westminster,  
26 February, 1908.

SIR,—Referring to the penultimate paragraph of "A Mathematician's" letter printed in your issue of the 22nd inst., in which he expresses doubt as to whether "lay" of the cloth can produce any effect, I think a simple experiment will convince him of the fact, though I cannot pretend to offer an explanation of the cause.

If he will stand at the upper end of a billiard table and gently bowl a coin (say a florin) from between his forefinger and thumb down the centre of the table towards the baulk end (i.e. against the nap of the cloth) he will find that the coin will do the "outside edge", swerving alternately right and left, and its path will describe a wavy line, more or less down the centre of the table.

If on the other hand he stand at the baulk end and bowl towards the upper end (i.e. with the nap) he will find it wholly impossible to make the coin do the outside edge, and that it will either roll straight up the table, or, more probably, run off to one side or the other in a continuous, and not a wavy, curve.

I fancy he will come to the conclusion that the difference in behaviour must be due to some effect of the nap, or "lay" of the cloth; and although of course a coin is not a billiard ball, it seems, to a non-expert in scientific matters, a reasonable inference that the nap may have a somewhat similar effect on a ball to that which it apparently has on a coin, and may conduce to swerve in one direction though not in another.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
JOHN P. MEAD.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Wimbledon, 27 February, 1908.

SIR,—Will "Mathematician" justify his pseudonym by explaining how a billiard ball can roll on a small circle (without slipping) unless it roll in a circle whose centre is at the point at which the axis of rotation meets the cloth? A thing no billiard ball ever does. To an old-fashioned Cambridge mathematician this seems geometrically impossible. It would also be interesting to learn on what grounds "Mathematician" has satisfied himself that the change from a vertical spin to an oblique one is very sudden. Theory and practical experience alike indicate it to be gradual, the inclination of the axis of spin increasing steadily during the run of the ball. As to the effect of the nap: "Mathematician" admits that there is friction between

the belt of contact and the cloth, and that this friction is unequal on the two sides. Surely it might be granted that the part of the ball which, owing to rotation, is moving against the nap is likely to meet with more resistance than that moving with it.

As to the actual facts, there is no room for dispute. Every billiard player knows how "cushion side" will make a ball cling to cushion, returning to it again and again till it reaches the pocket. The reverse effect in playing against the nap is less familiar, chiefly because not one table in a hundred has nap enough to show it, and not one player in a hundred has sufficient command of cue to bring it off.

Yours &c.

GEOMETER.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have seen Mr. Glennie's letter in your last issue. Perhaps I may call in question his suggestion that, had the friction of the cloth any effect, it "would cause the axis of rotation to lean forward", &c. The motion is one of precession, and the inclination of the axis, so caused, is sideways; to the right, if there be left-hand side on the ball.

#### CRITICS AND BOOK-SELLERS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

London, 4 March, 1908.

SIR,—The incurable optimism of critics is responsible for two deplorable events: (1) now that nearly every book is praised indiscriminately, readers have ceased to pay any attention to reviews; (2) book-sellers have come to regard all disapproval of their wares as a malicious libel on themselves.

Some years ago a very famous book-seller issued a very large book. I gave a frank opinion of it in a great Review. The book-seller immediately intimated that advertisements would be discontinued; he threatened even to cease sending books if he were flouted again.

The other day a petty firm submitted a novel, and I warned the readers of "John Bull" that I had found it stupid, tedious twaddle. This happened to be my honest opinion; I could not have expressed any other without deceiving and defrauding the public. The publishers immediately opened a campaign against me. Having no case for the defence of their book, they proceeded to heap personal abuse upon me as though I were a pickpocket or an attorney.

They began by inundating the press with advertisements, in which they sneered at me as "notable or notorious" and "peculiar in" my "views", as though only the wildest eccentricity could explain a failure to admire their foundling.

Their next step was to issue an advertising circular, which they described as a monthly magazine. It is almost exclusively composed of direct and indirect puffs of the firm's books and their authors. On a previous occasion, however, they announced on their cover that purchasers would find an open letter to one Hall Caine. But if anybody was lured by this promise of personalities to purchase a copy, he must have been disappointed to find only an announcement that the "letter" had been suppressed in deference to the fears of the printer.

Evidently, however, in my case the printer was less timid, for the March issue contains many riotous references to myself. I am kindly reminded that I am "no longer young"; I am accused of being "bald" and "bearded"; regrets are expressed that a "saving piece (sic) of humour" did not prevent me from making myself ridiculous; and there is a final pronouncement that "to be abused by Mr. Vivian is in itself a recommendation".

Now, Sir, such graceful exhibitions of a fine frenzy do not cause me sleepless nights. Having fought with beasts in an electoral arena, I am not to be frightened by the false fire which belches from behind a book-seller's barrow. But others, who share my belief that a critic's duty is to criticise, may be silenced by the menace of personal recrimination. Some may be engaged in a perpetual struggle with the wolf at their door, and may dread dismissal by an editor whom publishers have reft of his advertisements.

Will you not use your powerful influence to protect critics, now thwarted in the execution of their duty to the public?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
HERBERT VIVIAN.

**"THE LITERARY HISTORY OF THE ARABS."**

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

51 Bateman Street, Cambridge,  
26 February, 1908.

SIR,—While thanking your reviewer for his friendly and instructive notice of my "Literary History of the Arabs", perhaps I may be allowed to say that his criticism on one point is due to a misapprehension. The phrase "an intellectual aristocracy", which I have used in speaking of the Arabs under Turkish rule in Egypt, naturally refers to an aristocracy of intellect, not of rank.

Yours sincerely,  
REYNOLD A. NICHOLSON.

**THE SICILIANS.**

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Nice, 2 March, 1908.

SIR,—If, in continually referring to the company now at the Shaftesbury Theatre as "peasants" and "players", the critics mean to imply that the actors are merely a set of untutored bores indulging a native histrionic instinct for the mere fun of the thing, they are suffering under a great misconception. Cav. Grasso and his company have toured and are well known throughout Italy; and, though one need not take the conferring of an Italian knighthood very seriously, the fact shows the official recognition of a great popular celebrity.

I noticed the same error in Mr. Max Beerbohm's interesting article on a Florentine music-hall some weeks ago, wherein he quite wrongly supposed the artistes to have been merely daughters of the people out for a pleasant evening. I know the place well, and can assure him that they belonged to a very different class.

Yours faithfully,  
WILFRID C. THORLEY.

**THREE-HANDED BRIDGE: A SUGGESTION.**

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

26 February, 1908.

SIR,—Mr. Dalton's new series on "Inferences at Bridge" will no doubt be of value to the player who has had enough experience to take advantage of the hints he gives. May I make an "inference" which perhaps Mr. Dalton would care to consider? It is that the rules of three-handed bridge as laid down by the powers that be, however ingenious and explicit, are not quite fair. As I have always seen three-handed bridge played, if the dealer leaves the call it has to be No Trumps if dummy has three aces, or, failing the three aces, then the call is on the longest suit.

Now the longest-suit call may mean that, whatever the dealer has in his own hand, he has not the ghost of a chance of making the odd trick. He may, for instance, have four small hearts and some strength in the other suits. No one in his senses with such a hand would make hearts trumps on a left call. Yet at three-handed bridge there is no choice. It is a hopelessly unintelligent law.

Might I suggest, and Mr. Dalton will no doubt be prepared to say whether my idea is or is not reasonable, that when the dealer "leaves it" to dummy he should call either on his longest suit or spades? That surely would be sufficient protection against a player utilising foreknowledge of his own hand to the disadvantage of his opponents. As it is, the absurdity of having to make a red call when dummy has only four small ones is patent: it takes all the heart out of the play and spoils a good game.

Yours truly,  
OBSERVER.

**REVIEWS.**

**SOCIALISM: SATYR OR HYPERION?**

"English Socialism of To-day." By H. O. Arnold-Forster.  
London: Smith, Elder. 1908. 2s. 6d.

"A Critical Examination of Socialism." By W. H. Mallock.  
London: Murray. 1908. 6s.

"The Socialist Movement in England." By Brougham Villiers. London: Fisher Unwin. 1908. 10s. 6d. net.

THE contrast between socialism as presented by Mr. Villiers on one side and by Mr. Mallock and Mr. Arnold-Forster on the other is about as broad as that between the views of Sir Thomas Whittaker and the Secretary of the Licensed Victuallers' Defence League on the Licensing Bill. Mr. Villiers represents the sympathetic attitude. To Mr. Mallock, socialism is mainly an economic absurdity. Mr. Arnold-Forster denounces it with uncompromising and characteristic vigour as undiluted rapacity and robbery. Mr. Mallock remarks somewhere in his book that the socialist view has the advantage over the individualist because it is more easily argued. This is very disputable; and it is really much easier for the average person to grasp Mr. Arnold-Forster's allegations that socialism is founded on class hatred, envy, and malice than it is for him to grasp Mr. Villiers' conception of it as national co-operation whereby justice and equity are sought for all classes. It is not only the rich to whom the preaching of socialism seems foolishness. If it were easy to convince the working classes that socialism is the remedy for all their troubles, the "Clarion" would have had long ago no more occasion for pitying and deriding them for their ignorance and apathy, but could reserve its energies for denouncing the selfishness and cupidity of the rich. All the arguments and the hopes and fears acting as a conservative force in supporting individualism are out of all proportion greater than the most attractive but vague prophecies of a scheme which promises to "abolish poverty".

The strongest part of the case for socialism is the history of the poorest classes at any time, and especially since the large capitalist industry began in the eighteenth century. Its weakest is its attempted reconstruction of a society of the future where everything is as strange to what we know of the present as our dreams are to the actual facts of waking life. You get into a compassionate, sympathetic state of mind when you study, not the short and simple, but the long and complexly sorrowful annals of the poor. The practical man has rarely troubled himself with this aspect of history. In proportion as he does this he is the more likely to be susceptible to the emotional appeals of socialism. Without this preparation there is not a particle of anything in the offered panacea of socialism which seems to have any relation to business and human nature as he knows it, and it is *prima facie* so absurd that he has no patience with those who offer it. He cannot conceive that they can do so without sinister motives; and these motives he promptly ascribes to the desire of the working classes to rob other classes and dominate over them. He thinks he knows enough of history to explain this as the simple law of the classes in the past, and he is conscious at once of patriotism and acuteness in resolving that it shall not be so in the future if he can help it. Where is the ease of making socialism fascinating to a person of this habit of thought? Mr. Arnold-Forster has accurately gauged it; he may be said with metaphor to have "got into the skin" of this common object of ordinary life who will read "English Socialism of To-day" with all the conviction with which he reads the exposures of socialism in the "Daily Express" or the "Evening News".

Mr. Mallock is more literary, academic, theoretic, analytic, more difficult to read, presupposes some habit of reading economics. A socialist would admit that he throws much light on business motive and mechanism. Essentially Mr. Mallock's arguments are the same as Mr. Arnold-Forster's. What we have called the sympathetic element founded on history is absent from both. The appeal to history is limited to the fact



that no socialistic State or community in the real sense has ever existed, with the inference that in the future also it would be impossible. Mr. Mallock's utmost concession is that socialism is symptomatic of a social disease; though it is a false diagnosis and a fatal "remedy". Very aptly he offers us the analogy of Rousseau and his theory of the social contract. Mr. Mallock declines within the limits of his book to lay out a programme of reforms. Mr. Arnold-Forster is much less reticent; he indeed is profuse of suggestions, but he abounds withal in the sentiment

"How small of all that human hearts endure  
The part which kings or laws can cure".

Both writers however, as we might suppose, make compromises with pure individualism; and for both there is a semi or sane socialism as distinguished from that of the Social Democratic Federation or the Independent Labour Party or, in Mr. Mallock's case, of Christian Socialism. For the intellect and logic of the exponents of this form of socialism Mr. Mallock has less respect than for those of secular socialism. Ignorance and sentimentalism, with a dash of the desire for easy self-advertisement, are, he declares, the explanation of this form of socialism; and they are like "the devisers of perpetual motions and systems for defeating the laws of chance at a roulette-table". They have turned from talking traditional nonsense in the pulpit to talking nonsense that is modern.

Now Mr. Mallock's greater impatience with Christian than with secular socialism may be explained in this way. It introduces a Christian motive; the direct antithesis of the motive which Mr. Mallock regards as the mainspring of all individual effort, the essential of energetic industry, and the basis of the prosperity of society. The Christian Socialist's proposal to the man of great business capacity is: be full of self sacrifice and abnegation, and use your talents for the benefit of the weak, who are liable to be thrust down in the struggle of able men against each other. As this comes in the guise of Christian teaching it is rather more embarrassing to contradict it than to contradict the motives which secular socialism propounds as the substitute for the present motives of men engaged in the struggle for wealth and the social pleasures and rewards which attend success. To such men the equally material substitutes offered by secular socialism do appear wanting in reality, but they have something in them. As Mr. Mallock says, the industrial motive of exercising great power through wealth appeals to a special class of capable men; the secular socialists offer them various other motives such as appeal to the soldier, the missionary, the philanthropist or the artist, but not to them. How then can they be expected, when their special motive is taken away, to go on presiding over wealth-production as if nothing had happened? Their services are necessary. Even the socialists, the more intellectual at least, admit this now; though Mr. Mallock asserts that in their propaganda amongst the ignorant they practise a dishonest economy in proclaiming this truth. The difficulty is a real one. Probably the secular socialists would cut the knot and apply some forceful persuasion to their unwilling individuals of ability until they fell in with the new views. Yet it does seem that some such motive as is appealed to by Christian Socialists would be necessary; and to deny the possibility of such a motive operating is to contemplate society as insusceptible of Christian motives; and this is a hard saying.

Mr. Mallock has more difficulty than the Christian Socialist in considering the self-sacrifice probable, because he holds that the labourer, so far from being deprived of his fair share of the product, really gets more than his due if account be fairly taken of his part in production. This is somewhat startling; but the proof of it occupies the greater part of Mr. Mallock's book. It is his counter to the theory of Marx that all value is due to labour. The class war of the German socialism has been based on this theory; but Mr. Mallock exaggerates the extent to which it is held by socialists in England. The Social Democrats are the only English socialists who deliberately found themselves on it. Generally English socialists are not bound by an economic theory; and it is only by insisting

that they are that much of Mr. Mallock's criticism is actual. "Socialism is primarily of the heart and only secondarily of the head", remarks Mr. Villiers. Mr. Mallock goes on the opposite supposition, and has a very poor opinion of the heads of socialists. But they really do not undervalue directing ability to the extent he asserts they do. They may regard Mr. Mallock's estimate of the value of directing and organising ability as excessive; but it is assuming too much against socialism to represent that it makes no allowance for various degrees of business capacity. Its weakest point is its failure to show how the relative value of directing ability and other kinds of labour would be fixed in the socialistic State. According to Mr. Mallock the labourer now gets much more than he ought to on theory; but as he happens to be able to get this in practice, otherwise he would not take a hand in the game, we may suppose the socialist to point out that this rule would survive in the socialistic State. Only we must confess it is more difficult to see what the process would be than it is at present. The ratio is settled now by competition, but the socialists say the labourer's share would be more liberal, and can only be more liberal, under their régime. Mr. Mallock's reply is that ability is so important it can hardly be rewarded too much, and that under socialism it would be so discouraged by not being allowed a free hand that industry would languish and die. Interesting as Mr. Mallock's disquisition is on the creation of the wealth of the world by the directing ability of captains of industry, it is not quite satisfying. Granted that they have turned natural resources and scientific discoveries to industrial purposes very effectively, still they have had the universe to play with; and there is something which "organising ability" does not wholly cover. *Suum cuique tribuere* is a good maxim but difficult. In several centuries individualism and socialism in conflict may perhaps get us nearer to it than we are at present. Both socialist and anti-socialist are speculating largely in futures, and no one can say which of them will be on the right side in the end.

#### FLASH LIGHTS ON BONAPARTE.

"Bonapartism." Six Lectures delivered in the University of London. By H. A. L. Fisher. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press. 1908. 3s. 6d. net.

MR. FISHER is a very brilliant writer, and he possesses a better knowledge of the career of the great Napoleon than most Englishmen can claim. If he knew as much about Napoleon III. as he does about his uncle, no one would be more fitted to deliver a course of lectures which deal with the fortunes of these sovereigns. But in the present work he has been led astray by two influences—one, a desire to be brilliant at all hazards, and the other the necessity of justifying the title he has chosen by finding analogies where none exist, and discovering similarities where the plain man can see nothing but differences. He writes about "Bonapartism," a word which he does not define, the existence of which he does not prove, and he has consequently produced by a tour de force a work of coruscating phrases, of high lights and deep shadows, but one which will not command the assent of the historian, the politician, or the man of common sense.

In his early pages he attaches too great importance to the French Constitution of 1791—the product of the lengthy deliberations of a legislative body, singularly unfit to legislate, which never came into operation, and was probably never intended to do so. No period of Napoleon's career was more heroic, or is more deserving of unqualified praise, than the Consulate, of which we are at last receiving an adequate account in the learned and eloquent volumes of M. Vandal. To build a fabric of settled order upon the anarchy caused by the violence of the Revolution and the incompetence of the Directory needed a strong hand; but Napoleon knew how to be mild as well as firm, and in that epoch of his life no one could be more adroit in conciliating every shade of divergent opinion and in tempering the natural harshness of the legislation by skilful moderation in administration. Napoleon was even greater as

a statesman than he was as a soldier; he did not "think in terms of armies, battalions, and companies", as Mr. Fisher would have us believe, and, whenever a period of peace was granted them, was as considerate to his opponents as he was strict with his supporters. True he believed that a dominant Church should be subject to the State; he argued this with marvellous force at the age of seventeen, and there have been enlightened rulers who agreed with him. It is not improbable that Constantine made Christianity the religion of the State because it would be dangerous to leave so powerful a community uncontrolled.

Each separate phase of the extension of Napoleon's rule in Europe is capable of defence on the grounds of justice and expediency. It was much better that these subordinate States should be governed by members of Napoleon's family than by marshals, selected after the fashion of Cromwell's major-generals. Was Bernadotte a success, or can the Emperor be blamed for not repeating an experiment which could only lead to treachery? The Bonapartes were not an "obscure Corsican family", nor can their fortunes be characterised as "endemic brigandage". If they are welcomed in our own day as a valuable addition to the reigning families of Europe, they owe it to the genius which elevated them, and to the benefits which they have conferred upon mankind. Does Mr. Fisher seriously prefer the Bourbons of France, Spain, and Naples to the parvenus of San Miniato? A story was current among undergraduates fifty years ago that the noble head of a college had once described Dr. Whewell as a man of stupendous intellect but of no extraction. Whewell replied that his colleague might be described as a man of no intellect but stupendous extraction. Even Chateaubriand admitted the good government of Italy under Eugène Beauharnais, and desired the victory of Napoleon at Waterloo.

The close study of Napoleon's correspondence makes Mr. Fisher very unfair. He lays stress on remarks which are only casual and passing, and not of the essence of the writer's mind. Why should he reveal his deepest designs in every page of his voluminous correspondence? If Napoleon wished Paris to be the spiritual centre of the world, so did Comte, and in neither was it an ignoble ambition. But the study of this correspondence might have saved Mr. Fisher from saying that "Each new dependency was a fresh plate in the armour of a world empire", from speaking of "the rash and fatal plunge into Spain", from finding fault with Napoleon for preferring the devoted and more competent Maret to the traitor Talleyrand. Has he forgotten that in 1793 Maret was the only man who could have preserved peace between Pitt and the Revolution? Mr. Fisher's love of epigram makes him describe one of the noblest passages in German literature, the work of the one Teutonic writer who deserves to stand by the side of Goethe, as written by a German Jew, a native of the Grand Duchy of Berg, who had risen to fame by bitter and passionate lyrics. Is this unbridled wilfulness or culpable ignorance?

There is no legend of S. Helena except the legend that there is a legend. Napoleon's "Commentaries" written on that island are marvellous in their accuracy considering that he had to depend almost entirely on his memory and was inadequately supplied both with books and papers. The picture which he gives of his own career is not so favourable as that which is being built up every day by independent research, of whose fairness and accuracy there can be no doubt. Mr. Fisher is well acquainted with these researches, and frequently draws the right conclusions from them; but he thinks it necessary to interlard his narrative with extracts from the "Légende Britannique", which is far more mendacious than anything which came from S. Helena. General Butler maintains that Napoleon was confined in that island with the deliberate intention of putting an end to his life, and it is certain that whenever Wilson Croker received a despatch from Sir Hudson Lowe he exclaimed in disgust, "What, is he not dead yet?"

We have no space to deal with Mr. Fisher's account of the Second Empire, a period of history about which he is not very well informed. There is one great omission: Bonapartism, if it means anything, implies a continuity of policy. Was the "entente cordiale",

the close alliance of England with Napoleon III., a continuation or a reversal of the policy of Napoleon I.? There are some who think that friendship with England was the one passionate desire of the great Emperor, and that what he failed to obtain by persuasion he attempted to extort by force. But is this Mr. Fisher's view? On this momentous problem he is silent.

#### MR. COURTNEY'S VERSION.

"The Literary Man's Bible." Arranged by W. L. Courtney. London: Chapman and Hall. 1907. 10s. 6d. net.

WE are not at all clear, in spite of Dr. Courtney's preface, how this book of elegant extracts from the Old Testament is to "give back the Bible to thoughtful men". Dr. Courtney concerns himself with the Bible "solely as literature". It is the best of the best hundred books. But, to go no further than Genesis, he deprives the thoughtful man of Melchisedek, of Abram's trance, of how Lot came to reside in Sodom, of Rebekah's punishment, of Benjamin's birth and Rachel's death, and of Jacob's death-bed blessing upon Ephraim and Manasseh. It is not as though it were the more undoubtedly historical passages that have been selected. The destruction of Sodom "just possibly may be vaguely historical". "Great improbability" attaches to the Egyptian plagues. The passage of the Red Sea is "all a tale of wonders". Joshua is of doubtful historical value. Samson is perhaps a sun-myth. The Jonah story is "quite childish". Moses' song of triumph presupposes the existence of the Temple. Isaiah is a mosaic of fragments which have been worked over again and again, almost down to Christ's birth. Nor have the passages been chosen for their ethical beauty. The book of Esther, for instance, is "repulsive in the extreme", "an almost shocking example of Jewish intolerance and spite". Neither can we see that the thoughtful man will be much helped to a critical estimate of the Bible by Dr. Courtney's short introductions and sparse notes—chips from Cheyne or Delitzsch, and the usual anatomising into P, JE, RJ, Rd., &c. The Jews, likely enough, were never in Egypt at all. Israel was not the Chosen People, but only a race with a peculiar turn for religion. The Sabbath originally had nothing whatever to do with a day of rest. The oracles of God are no more inspired than Herodotus or Homer, but are full of interesting folklore and fable. Such explanatory aids to reading the Bible are not fresh, are thrown out haphazard, and hardly amount to giving back the Bible to thoughtful men.

When it is remembered that the "simple Bible teaching" of Liberal politicians is very likely to be imparted by "thoughtful men" who have been brought up on "The Literary Man's Bible" and similar popularisations of current speculation, what an imposture it is seen to be! Or is it that democratic Protestantism is hopelessly provincial and outside the world of letters? Then there is Dr. Clifford with his purely ethical Bible-readings. The Bible, even if not true, exhibits a gradual evolutionary advance of Israel in moral and spiritual apprehension. But is it so? Criticism asserts that Israel, beginning with a simple nomad faith, un-denominational, non-sacerdotal, and laying little stress upon worship or sacrifice, passed by degrees under the dominion of priestly legalism and ceremonialism, which coloured the theology of the New Testament, and has bound Christianity in fetters ever since. Our Bible has suffered a sea-change, an ecclesiastical diorthosis. Even the prophets turned moral precept into apocalyptic warning. According to some, the Scriptures are providentially intended to teach us rather than to avoid than what to imitate. When we find Joshua, Jael or David held up there to admiration, we see how far the morals of London or Paris society have advanced on those of the Church in the wilderness and of Mount Zion. How unenlightened, moreover, is the teaching of both Testaments about womanhood, about obedience, meekness, self-mortification and other-worldliness. We really do not know how Dr. Clifford is going to teach the Bible ethically—at present, at any rate.



At present; for constructive criticism, which has re-established the New Testament, has still to have its turn with the Old. Just now we are all too much dominated by certain prepossessions of evolution to be more than half-hearted defenders of any supernatural—which does not exclusively mean any Divine—element in the history of mankind. And then Dr. Courtney and his friends are so confident. Huxley once said of Dean Stanley that the reason why he believed enthusiastically in Abraham, but rejected Genesis i., was that he had seen an Arab sheikh but was not present at Creation. We feel sure that the author of "The Literary Man's Bible" was there at every event, and wrote the date down in his pocket-book. Possibly this volume may induce those who are too conceited or too stupid to read an ordinary Bible to become familiar with portions of its glorious literature, a literature which even the "Daily Telegraph" young men, or old men, could scarcely have produced. We thank Dr. Courtney also for giving us King James' version. But what can be the possible meaning of saying that the name Jahveh is "translated" Jehovah in that version, while El or Elohim appears as "the Lord"? In A. V. and R. V. alike "the LORD" stands for the ineffable Name, at the true form of which Jahveh is a guess. Dr. Courtney has got the parable of the potter wrong on page 40. It lends no aid to a Calvinistic doctrine of irrespective decrees; for the point is that the clay spoils itself and then complains of the use the potter puts it to.

#### FAMILIES THAT COUNT.

"Walford's County Families of the United Kingdom."  
London: Spottiswoode. 1908. 50s.

"WALFORD'S County Families" was first published in 1860 by Mr. E. Walford, and is now approaching its jubilee. The name of the work originally selected by the compiler was "Manual of the Titled and Untitled Aristocracy", and he concluded his preface with the remark that "the bearing of arms, not of titles, has ever been considered as the distinctive mark of true noblesse". The subsidiary title now is "Royal Manual", but there is no imprimatur justifying the word "Royal"—which ought to mean that it is published by authority of the King.

The title "County Families" has existed for many years, and probably was adopted very soon after the first issue. The first title is, however, that which best describes the author's intention, for the book is in fact merely a directory on a large scale of persons of good social standing; but of the same nature as "Kelly's Handbook of the Titled Landed and Official Classes".

"County Families" would naturally mean families whose members belong to the landowning aristocracy, but there is no information in this work about families; and many persons are the subjects of paragraphs who have neither connexion with the land nor part in any county business. Men who have been prominent in India, the colonies, or at home, and have been decorated with orders and other dignities, are properly mentioned in a manual or directory, but they are not the heads and often not the members of county families. We may state with confidence that a vast number of the individuals mentioned in the work before us are not only without any responsibility in respect of land, even though they own country villas, but that they are destitute of Mr. Walford's supreme qualification, that of right to armorial bearings.

A very useful appendix to "County Families" consists of names classified under counties. If we compare the list for Hertfordshire with the special volume of the "Victoria County Histories", we find in the "Victoria" about sixty-six, of whom only twelve have a bona fide ancestral estate, while in the former there are a hundred and forty-one. The sixty-six purport to have a right to arms, and these probably exhaust the number of those having right by record. We make these observations, not with the view of disparaging the work before us, for it is in fact one of the most useful books of reference in existence, but rather as a protest against the loose language which is now universally used in respect of names for books.

The object is to get a high-sounding title for a book—some title which may create a market—and not to describe the contents. No one is deceived in these days by such words as "royal" and "aristocratic", and there is no intent to deceive; but the various "Peerages" and directories are just trade ventures seeking the advertisement to be found in a name, and appealing to those who, having risen far above their fathers in respect of wealth and honours, desire to be included in a list of aristocrats.

In England we have never admitted the existence of a noble class, and use the word "noble" only for peers, whatever the date of their creation. If there were a noble class, and if the State issued an authorised list of those entitled to belong to it, few of the existing publications would appear.

We have said, and we repeat, that "Walford's County Families" is one of the best directories, if not the best, of distinguished people, and we feel it difficult and invidious to found our criticism on any particular name. Let us, however, imagine the case of a man of world-renowned intellect, a great author, a Privy Councillor, and a Cabinet Minister, son of one living in a provincial town, having a villa in a London suburb, but not an acre anywhere, and ask how such a man, however distinguished, can be described as of a "county family". It is right to add that the present editor gives in a last appendix an index to the principal seats in the United Kingdom, which has a distinct value, for it occasionally happens that an inquirer wants a place-name. Roughly speaking, the number of seats is about five thousand, and the number of persons nearly eighteen thousand, thus adding force to our observations, and inducing us to recommend that the original title be revived.

#### NOVELS.

"Flower o' the Orange." By Agnes and Egerton Castle.  
London: Methuen. 1908. 6s.

Any criticism of this collection of stories is of secondary interest to the question which they put so insistently one after another to the reader. There are ten of them, and at least half the number are of considerable merit. They are very just in the conception of the material required by a short story; they are well shaped and quite adequately contrived; the writing is always polished and sometimes admirable; and the adventures in many instances challenge one's concern. Yet there is not from cover to cover the least suggestion of character. It is really rather a surprising achievement to have written, and written well, say, of some fourscore persons and not once to have given that sense of immutable essence which makes a distinguishable self. Of course this sense of character is not essential to the enjoyment of many readers. Especially in tales such as these, laid in days some centuries ago, of men readier as a rule with their rapier than with a reason, and of maids so apt to lose their hearts that their entry, still possessed of one, into a story rather moves one's wonder. Yet even granted that the authors are not greatly concerned with character, it seems almost inexplicable that they did not, if but by accident, in all these particulars succeed in creating it. Thinking, by inevitable contrast, of Robert Louis Stevenson, who had but to draw his pen across the paper to evoke some aroma of personality before he so much as drew the scene or had given a hint of its circumstance, it appears the more perplexing that these accomplished pages should fail so completely to produce an effect for which he had not even to strive. It would seem that one must look for an explanation, apart from that law that allows only to personality the divination of personality, in the failure in all these tales to render the sense of vision with which the agents in them regarded their adventures. The point of view is always the authors', coloured of course to represent the needful emotions, but lacking that touch of "pathetic fallacy" which is inseparable from the human contact with every kind of fortune. In the first and best tale in the book one misses it least, because the hero, being hardened by adversity, is distinguished by a soured fixity in his point of view, which gives him as it were a sort of

conventional character; but in "Pomona", which is by no means the worst, one misses altogether the personality of the man, and the charm of the woman almost evades one, because both fail to see anything with their own eyes, or to show those subtle changes, from feeling with their own senses. It is this failure which makes the authors' method the more successful the less it has to do with sentiment, and would seem to indicate to their advantage the periods which owed most to artifice, and those chronicles of action which are most dependent upon men.

"The History of Aythan Waring." By Violet Jacob. London: Heinemann. 1908. 6s.

The author of this book shows herself in several ways Mr. Thomas Hardy's disciple. The description of "the building known as Richard's barn" might be from his pen. What Egdon Heath is to "The Return of the Native", that the Black Mountain is to Aythan Waring's history. The epoch, also, is the same. Dominating the vale village of Crishowell, now etherialised in sunshine, now wrapped in mystery and cloud, the Black Mountain seems to exercise an almost human influence on the tragedy which is played out at its feet. A knowledge of that border country assures us that Mrs. Jacob has painted it faithfully and lovingly, and to its setting her story owes no little of its charm. Her attempt to portray some of the primal and baser instincts of humanity at work in a man and woman outwardly decorous is hardly as successful. The analysis of Hester's character and motives is elaborated overmuch; indeed Aythan (who is a fine fellow) and the girl he loves are eclipsed by the pair who schemed against their happiness. Nevertheless, though its execution is not so good as its conception, this "History of Aythan Waring" is a fine story, thoughtful and imaginative. It is because Mrs. Jacob writes so well that we expect her to write better.

"The Worst Man in the World." By Frank Richardson. London: Nash. 1908. 6s.

Mr. Richardson's latest concoction of parody, burlesque and extravaganza is not quite equal to the best of his efforts in his characteristic line. Premeditated fooling which does not exactly raise the laugh played for is the flattest of entertainments; and there is a good deal in his book of the laboriously funny which leaves one unamused. Mr. Richardson's peculiar vein is one in which this sort of failure is patent, but there are plenty of places in "The Worst Man in the World" where he gets the laugh in his usual way. He has not been very fortunate in his burlesque subject: and his hero, the Forfarshire Baronet, has led him into a field for joking which has been sufficiently reaped by the "Unspeakable Scot". But some of his parodies on the paraphrases are amusing; and one parody of Swinburne is excellent and has a humour more refined and less obvious than Mr. Richardson generally offers his readers.

#### PRIME MINISTERS I HAVE SEEN.

"Memories of Eight Parliaments." By Henry W. Lucy. London: Heinemann. 1907. 8s. 6d. net.

There is none of the cant of false modesty about the writer of this book. He looks you in the face from his frontispiece and you are assured straightaway on his title-page that "on anything relating to Parliament Mr. Lucy speaks as an expert. There is, perhaps, no man living who has had so constant and so close observation of Parliamentary life in its many aspects". After this testimonial from Lord Rosebery we can turn, certain of a treat, to "Part I.—Men" and "Part II.—Manners". An over-modest man would not have given to 166 pages the top line, "Prime Ministers I have Known". It would have been, perhaps, "Prime Ministers I have Known Slightly". The Prime Ministers are Gladstone, Disraeli, Salisbury, Rosebery and Balfour. But why is Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman left out of the list? To judge by the index there is only one little reference to him in the entire book—a "scene" about him and Mr. Balfour over the Fiscal question. Mr. Lucy has "a copy of a snapshot photograph of Mr. Balfour, the enemy taking him unaware on the golf links". We are told that he "has just delivered his stroke, and with legs outstretched, the club uplifted at its final swing over his shoulder, he intently follows the flight of his speeding ball. All his soul is in the game. Every fibre of his body is intent as he watches the result of the stroke". The book is full of "graphic" passages of this sort. Mr. Balfour is a pet of

Mr. Lucy's. He "witches the House with grace of manner, extorts admiration by the dexterity with which he skates over thin ice". But Mr. Lucy can see his pet's faults: "Turning over the ledger of the Session in search of business done, the record is disappointingly brief." We have no notion what the ledger of the Session is, but it is clear that Mr. Balfour is not—in Mr. Lucy's eyes—a great man of business. However, during the last three years of his Premiership Mr. Balfour was handicapped. He should have "put his foot down when Mr. Chamberlain first raised the flag of Preferential Tariffs". His indecision, we learn, caused "a concatenation of circumstances" which "created perennial difficulty". After the five Prime Ministers one has not a great appetite for mere Cabinet Ministers or private members. One chapter discusses "Lord Hugh Cecil and his Eldest Brother". The eldest brother is not one of Mr. Lucy's pets. Mr. Lucy somewhat reproaches Lord Salisbury—his Prime Minister friend—for putting Lord Cranborne into office. The result was "not encouraging to further effort". "The paternal tendency to utterance of blazing indiscretions is apparently ineradicable." The picture of Lord Hugh Cecil—who comes off much better than his brother—is indeed brilliant: "Lord Hugh possesses in an utilitarian twentieth century the character of the imperious cleric of Inquisition days." "Lord Hugh resembles the Marquis." Mr. T. G. Bowles is, of course, Mr. "Tommy" Bowles, and his view is given against the employment of too many members of the family. We have no appetite for stuff of this kind.

"Revue des Deux Mondes." 1 Mars.

In an article on the evolution of education in Japan, by Count Vay ai Vaya, a Japanese, there are some instructive comments on the results of introducing the youth of that country suddenly to the newest ideas of the West. Materialist rather than idealist theories seem to be eagerly embraced by the students with sad consequences, sometimes even suicide, but in any case there ensues a general sentiment of discontent with things as they are. Even Nietzsche has adherents. Darwin, Spencer and Carlyle have the greatest influence of any teachers. The authorities are taking steps to meet the evil by a change both of teachers and subjects. The students show much aptitude for physics and mechanics, but little for mathematics or metaphysics. There is a good paper by M. Gilbert on the French novel during the last ten years. He regrets, not unnaturally, that the crudest and least reticent romances are those written by women. This phenomenon is not confined to France. He attributes it to the fever for independence and equality which seems to have seized on the sex.

#### THE MARCH REVIEWS.

Socialism finds this month energetic defenders in the "Nineteenth Century" in Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, who has been stirred by Mr. Hoare's "nervous outburst of unbalanced bemoaning" last month, and in the "National Review" (new series) of all places, where Mr. H. M. Hyndman explains how Socialism has advanced until "the future is ours". Mr. Hyndman is confident, "though we may not live to see realised even a portion of that for which we are striving, those who come after will benefit continuously by the glorious campaign for human freedom we have waged under the Red Flag of International Socialism". In the "Fortnightly" Dr. Beattie Crozier continues his challenge to Socialism, incidentally replying to what he calls "the intellectual foppery" of Mr. Hyndman's assumption that because there has been evolution from slavery to serfdom, and from serfdom to free labour under capitalism, the workers have "won and earned" the franchises instead of

(Continued on page 308.)

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having them largely conferred on them. Mr. Blatchford replied to Dr. Crozier's first paper; Mr. Snowden will reply to the second. The essential difference in the standpoint of the Socialist and the Tariff Reformer—the one being cosmopolitan, the other national and imperial—is strongly suggested by Mr. Lowenfeld in a long open letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on "Our Unjust Taxation and Its Remedy" printed in the "Financial Review of Reviews." Tariff Reform alone can provide a system of taxation which is just to all parties and can afford the necessary surplus for dealing with pressing social problems. In the "National Review" Mr. Garvin finds in unemployment the cancer of Cobdenism, and contrasts the numbers of unemployed in Great Britain under free imports and in Germany and the United States under tariffs. He does not make the mistake of saying that Tariff Reform would provide work for everyone, but he does contend, and rightly, that it would provide a larger degree of opportunity and security than the worker now enjoys. On the subject of Tariff Reform Sir Roper Lethbridge in the "Nineteenth Century" renders a service to the cause, and to the memory of a statesman, by a careful and intimate analysis of Lord Randolph Churchill's views. He flatly contradicts Mr. Churchill's view that his father merely coquetted with Fair Trade. According to Sir Roper, Lord Randolph was "an earnest and whole-hearted believer in Tariff Reform"—under another name—on Mr. Chamberlain's lines. He advocated Imperial Preference, and approved of even a small duty on corn because it "would yield a good revenue". What he did object to, and what no Tariff Reformer who counts would advocate, was any proposal to impose high duties on foreign imports.

Foreign policy commands an unusually large proportion of space this month. In the "Fortnightly Review" Mr. Alfred Stead enters a plea for a sane policy in the relations of Great Britain and Turkey. The time has come to look at the facts in a proper perspective and decide whether it is well that the British Empire, with its millions of Mohammedans, should remain estranged from Turkey and the Commander of the Faithful. The estrangement Mr. Stead traces to Mr. Gladstone's "Billingsgate abuse of the Sultan", and in that he is no doubt correct; but whilst it is true that the Sultan has not been responsible for all that has happened in the Balkans, it is fair to remember that Lord Salisbury himself once intimated that in backing Turkey we had put our money on the wrong horse. Mr. Stead's opinion is that we should send a Mohammedan as Ambassador to Constantinople. As it is, we have surrendered the best position there to Germany. It is always Germany. In the same review Sir Rowland Blennerhassett points out the significance of the Polish question to Great Britain as a consequence of the relations it has created between Germany and Russia. M. André Mévil in the "National Review" gives "an unpublished page of international diplomacy" which is intended to hold the Machiavellian wiles of Germany responsible for the Russo-Japanese War. Sir Rowland Blennerhassett says that whilst Posen remains Polish Germany is largely dependent upon Russian friendship, and knows it. M. Mévil's statements are meant to prove that Germany created complications which, by tying Russia's hands in the Far East, reduced her to a quantité négligeable in Europe. Scotus Viator in the "Contemporary Review" asserts that since 1897 Russia's place as Austria-Hungary's most dangerous competitor in the Balkans has been taken by Italy. In his usual "Contemporary" survey of foreign affairs Dr. Dillon says that Austria's new railway policy makes it incumbent on Russia, if she has not given up her cherished mission of holding out a helping hand to her kith and kin in South-Eastern Europe, to proclaim her resolve, and take effectual means of carrying it out.

M. Jean Finot in the "Contemporary" and Calchas in the "Fortnightly" deal with the Lisbon tragedy. M. Finot's account, from his own observation, of the apparent utter indifference of the people to the murder of King and Crown Prince is humiliating to our common humanity. "Perhaps", he says, "there will be only one issue to this monarchy in chaos—a Republic". Calchas takes the view that a dictatorship is an indispensable instrument to the regeneration of the nation, and that a Republic would not have any element of permanency. The truth is, the tragedy has tended to emphasise the essential character of kingship just as have developments in other quarters. Under King Edward, says Calchas, monarchy has again become not merely a restraining but an initiating force. "The Hohenzollerns no longer stand alone in their thoroughly professional view of kingship." Even the estimate of the Tsar is being revised. Monarchy impresses the imagination with the idea of national unity and continuity. "Political philosophy has discovered no substitute for hereditary monarchy as the expression of the historic unity of a people. So long as representative institutions rest upon a national basis, the more complete and party-riven democracy becomes, the more will it need the corrective of kingship."

Two writers, both anonymous, one in the "Fortnightly", the other in the "Contemporary", are of opinion that misgivings as to the relative strength of the British and German fleets have been exaggerated. The "Fortnightly" reviewer thinks we can still afford to follow our traditional policy of awaiting

foreign developments and then playing a trump card. That would be all very well if we could be sure of having the trump at the critical moment. The "Contemporary" admits that "relatively weak as the German fleet is at present, the plans which are now maturing will ensure it a significant and prominent position about 1912 and onwards". Mr. Archibald Hurd in the "Nineteenth Century" also deprecates alarm, whilst urging that foresight is necessary. "Tried by every test", he says, "the Navy has made notable progress". A writer in "Blackwood" continues a vigorous attack on "Fool Gunnery in the Navy", and says the public should not take Sir John Fisher's advice to sleep quietly in their beds. "Pro Deo et Patria" in the "Nineteenth Century" is an appeal by Sir Alexander Tulloch for support in the great work of military training for schoolboys, in the hope that they may be imbued with a spirit of patriotism that will encourage them to join the defence forces. "If not, then there is nothing for it but compulsory service." In the "Contemporary" Major Von Heydebreck, of the German General Staff, outlines the various schemes proposed for the benefit of the British Army, and thinks that if Mr. Haldane's can be practically carried out in all its details, the best that can be done under non-compulsory enlistment will have been accomplished. He finds a wide gulf between the tactical ideas which prevailed in England at the beginning of the South African War and those of the present day. British tactical theories are "modern" in the best sense of the word. "The British Army trained on these lines by eminent generals now commands the respect even of the great armies of the Continent."

Various articles deal with the woman question. In the "Nineteenth Century" Mrs. Massie enters "A Woman's Plea against Woman Suffrage"; in the "Westminster Review" Miss Clarissa Dixon discusses woman's claims from the point of view of Nature, while Miss Gladys Jones discusses it on more sentimental grounds; in the "Albany" Miss Constance Clyde looks at woman as she will be when Utopia arrives. Among the miscellaneous articles of note in the Reviews are:—"Sinn Fein," by the Rev. J. O. Hannay (George A. Birmingham), in the "Albany"; "The Poems of Mary Coleridge," by Mr. Bernard Holland, in the "National"; "American Literature," by Mr. Charles Whibley, in "Blackwood"; "Ouida," by Mr. E. H. Cooper, in the "Fortnightly"; "His Ninetieth Year," being Mr. Walter Frith's account in the "Cornhill" of his interview with his father; "An Unlisted Legion"—books that have never been written—by Mr. John Milne in the "Book Monthly"; and some lines, "The Gods of Greece", found among Sir James Knowles' papers after his death, now printed in the review he founded and edited.

For this Week's Books see page 310.

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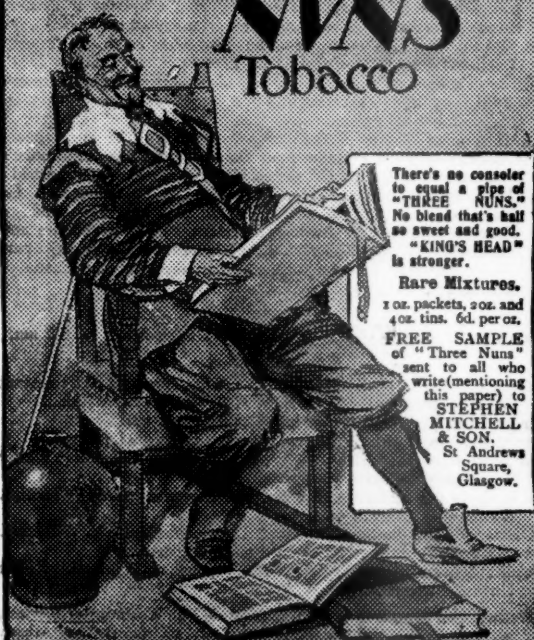
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We quote these words of "the greatest living writer of English prose" because they give a very clear exposition of one of the points of view from which the editors of *The Historians' History of the World* regarded the task of producing a narrative that should adequately present the story of the progress of all nations. Such impartiality of outlook as Mr. MEREDITH suggests they all along attempted to maintain. It is this spirit that we have more than once characterised as cosmopolitanism of editorial view.

One or two critics have seemed to be puzzled as to the exact sense in which this word "cosmopolitanism" was used in connection with the editorship of *The Historians' History*. What one or two have expressed, a good many others may have felt. Therefore perhaps it may be worth while to offer a few words of precise explication, both as to the meaning of the term in its application to *The Historians' History* and as to the method by which so-called cosmopolitanism of editorial view was attained.

In the first instance it must be recalled that there are two quite different points of view from which the history of any particular nation may be approached. One of these may be called the sympathetic, the other the antipathetic view. The editors of *The Historians' History* laid it down as an axiom that it is impossible to write a truly great history of a great people from the antipathetic standpoint—a pronouncement obviously in harmony with Mr. Meredith's views as above quoted.

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*Extracts from the DIRECTORS REPORT for the year ending December 31st, 1907.*

Your Directors are pleased to report that, notwithstanding the exceptionally heavy claim rate experienced during the earlier months of the year, the ACCUMULATED FUNDS have been INCREASED to **£1,991,480** by the net addition of **£214,725**.

The PREMIUM INCOME amounted to **£1,076,788**, and the TOTAL INCOME to **£1,157,336**.

The Consulting Actuary, Mr. Thomas G. Ackland, F.I.A., reports, as the result of the Annual Valuation, that after fully providing for all increased liabilities, and after applying an amount of over **£100,000** in further strengthening the bases of the Valuation in both Branches, the net surplus of **£42,953** is disclosed; and, acting on his advice, the Directors are enabled to declare the sum of **£28,100** divisible amongst the participating Policyholders and Shareholders. This will enable the Directors again to allot a Reversionary Bonus of **30s. per cent.** for the year to all Policyholders participating in the Immediate Profit class, and also to make adequate provision for Policyholders in the Accumulated Profit classes.

## CLAIMS.

The Total paid during the year amounted to **£524,457**, including **£125,180** paid under Maturing Endowment and Endowment Assurance Policies.

The TOTAL AMOUNT paid by the Company to its Assurants up to 31st December, 1907, was **£5,801,258**.

S. J. PORT,  
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# PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

CHIEF OFFICE: HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

## Summary of the Report presented at the Fifty-ninth Annual Meeting, held on 5th March, 1908.

**ORDINARY BRANCH.**—The number of Policies issued during the year was 86,080, assuring the sum of £8,156,865, and producing a New Annual Premium Income of £466,357. The Premiums received during the year were £4,480,377, being an increase of £189,406 over the year 1906. The Claims of the year amounted to £2,430,117. The number of Deaths was 8,243, and 12,328 Endowment Assurances matured.

The number of Policies in force at the end of the year was 843,206.

**INDUSTRIAL BRANCH.**—The Premiums received during the year were £6,661,631, being an increase of £162,603. The Claims of the year amounted to £2,563,090. The number of Deaths was 281,990, and 4,494 Endowment Assurances matured. The number of Free Policies granted during the year to those Policyholders of five years' standing and upwards who desired to discontinue their payments was 128,429, the number in force being 1,290,758. The number of Free Policies which became Claims during the year was 32,104.

The total number of Policies in force at the end of the year was 17,459,835; their average duration exceeds eleven years.

The Assets of the Company, in both branches, as shown in the Balance Sheet, are £68,006,284, being an increase of £4,119,276 over those of 1906.

In pursuance of the policy indicated in the last report, a scheme was approved by the Shareholders at meetings held in July last, admitting Industrial Branch policyholders, and the Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, and Agents to specified shares in the profits of the Company.

The Directors are pleased to announce that in the Ordinary Branch a reversionary bonus at the rate of £1 12s. per cent. on the original sums assured has again been added to all classes of participating policies issued since the year 1876.

In the Industrial Branch a bonus by way of addition of 5 per cent. to the sums assured will be paid on all policies of over five years' duration, which become claims either by death or maturity of endowment from the 6th of March, 1908, to the 4th of March, 1909, both dates inclusive.

## General Balance Sheet of the Prudential Assurance Company, Limited, being the Summary of both Branches, on the 31st December, 1907.

LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.
Shareholders' Capital	...	1,000,000	0 0	British Government securities	...	3,415,855	16 11
Reserve Funds	...	2,550,000	0 0	Indian and Colonial Government securities	...	6,250,929	14 8
Life Assurance Funds	...	64,329,288	13 3	Railway and other debentures and debenture stocks, and gold and sterling bonds	...	8,623,412	10 4
Claims under Life Policies admitted	...	126,995	10 0	Loans on County Council, Municipal and other rates	...	14,850,229	8 10
				Freehold ground rents and Scotch feu duties	...	4,759,434	0 5
				Freehold and leasehold property	...	3,628,927	19 11
				Mortgages on property within the United Kingdom	...	8,687,757	9 0
				Railway, Gas, and Water Stocks	...	7,237,407	18 11
				Suez Canal shares	...	162,193	16 2
				Telegraph and other shares	...	97,207	4 8
				Metropolitan and London County Consolidated stocks and City of London bonds	...	251,059	9 9
				Metropolitan Water Board stocks	...	435,263	10 7
				Bank of England stock	...	202,754	7 10
				Indian, Colonial and Foreign Corporation stocks	...	1,770,520	15 1
				Foreign Government securities	...	1,899,039	19 6
				Reversions and Life Interests	...	1,287,191	8 6
				Loans on the Company's policies	...	2,587,068	11 10
				Rent charges	...	265,112	13 11
				Outstanding premiums and agents' balances	...	561,972	3 5
				Outstanding interest and rents	...	558,679	5 9
				Cash—In hands of superintendents	...	35,783	15 0
				Ditto—On deposit, on current accounts, and in hand	...	438,482	2 3
						£68,006,284	3 3

FREDERICK SCHOOLING, } *Joint Managers.*  
A. C. THOMPSON, }  
D. W. STABLE, } *Joint Secretaries.*  
J. SMART, }

H. A. HARBEN, *Chairman.*  
THOS. C. DEWEY, } *Directors.*  
W. T. PUGH, }

We have examined the Cash transactions (receipts and payments) affecting the accounts of the Assets and Investments for the year ended December 31st, 1907, and we find the same in good order and properly vouched. We have also examined the Deeds and Securities, Certificates, &c., representing the Assets and Investments set out in the above account, and we certify that they were in possession and safe custody as on December 31st, 1907.

17th February, 1908.

DELOITTE, PLENDER, GRIFFITHS & CO., *Chartered Accountants.*

## ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The List will be closed this day, Saturday, the 7th of March, 1908.

# REPUBLIC OF SALVADOR.

## GOVERNMENT SIX PER CENT. STERLING BONDS.

ISSUE OF £1,000,000, in 10,000 Bonds to Bearer of £100 each.

Having the direct obligation of the Supreme Government of the Republic of Salvador and specifically secured by a first charge upon the special Customs Duty of \$3.60, American gold, upon every 100 kilogrammes of merchandise imported into the Republic, and upon the Export Tax of 40 cents, American gold, per quintal (100 lbs.), on a fixed quantity of 500,000 quintals, of coffee exported yearly from the Republic, such 500,000 quintals to be the first exported in each season. The estimated annual proceeds of these two sources of revenue, payable in gold, specifically pledged to the service of this Loan is the sum of \$700,000 gold, say £140,000 sterling. The Government of Salvador has issued and deposited with the Bank in San Salvador designated by the Trustees, to be held at the disposal of and to the order of the Trustees for the Bondholders. Certificates for the said Special Customs Duty and Export Tax for 21 years, that is to say, covering the whole period of the existence of the Loan.

The Bonds will be secured by a Trust Deed in favour of the undermentioned Trustees.

## TRUSTEES FOR THE BONDHOLDERS.

MARK JAMESTOWN KELLY, Esq., Chairman of the Salvador Railway Company, Limited, 7 & 8 Idol Lane, E.C.  
HENRY MANUEL READ, Esq., Manager, London Bank of Mexico and South America, Limited, 94 Gracechurch Street, E.C.

Interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum payable half-yearly, in London, at the Offices of the London Bank of Mexico and South America, Limited, on the 15th of February and the 15th of August. The first interest payment will be made on the 15th day of August, 1908, and will be calculated from the due dates of the respective instalments.

The sum of £85,000 (being 8½ per cent. upon the total nominal amount of the loan) is the amount required annually for the payment of interest and for the sinking fund for the redemption of the Bonds in 21 years. The sinking fund will be applied in the purchase of Bonds in the market should they be under par, or by yearly drawings during August in each year if the Bonds should be at or above par.

Principal and interest payable in sterling in London free of all existing or future taxes of the Republic.

Issue price £88 per £100 Bond.

Payable as follows: £5 per cent. on Application; £15 per cent. on Allotment; £22 per cent. on 7th April, 1908; £22 per cent. on 7th May, 1908; £22 per cent. on 9th June, 1908—Total, £88.

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The average of the exports of Coffee from the Republic during the three years 1904, 1905, 1906, was 660,000 quintals, and the average yield of the Export Tax during those years was 264,000 dollars gold. The average yield of the special Customs Duty during the same three years was 523,300 dollars gold. The complete figures for 1907 have not yet been received.

The annual fixed amount required to provide the interest and sinking fund is £85,000, while the figures given in the last preceding paragraph indicate that the Revenues specifically charged for the purpose exceed £140,000 per annum.

The Government of Salvador has no External Debt.

The Republic of Salvador has made considerable strides in prosperity in the past 20 years. In 1887 the Revenue derived from the Custom House was \$1,795,378.53, while the following statement, extracted from the official Government returns, shows the progress made in the past five years:—

	CUSTOMS.	EXCISE.	OTHER SOURCES.	TOTAL.
	SILVER DOLLARS.			
1902	4,279,417.07	1,857,706.42	571,898.21	6,709,021.70
1903	4,273,131.92	1,945,706.19	573,905.58	6,792,743.69
1904	5,124,085.11	2,143,369.66	793,234.28	8,060,689.05
1905	5,567,444.17	1,924,911.07	1,044,083.83	8,536,443.07
1906	5,431,169.18	1,994,266.46	1,058,984.14	8,484,419.78
1907 (Budget estimate)	5,551,900.00	2,350,000.00	832,250.00	8,734,150.00

The value of the Imports and Exports during the same period was:—

	IMPORTS.	EXPORTS.
	SILVER DOLLARS.	
1902	6,181,616.43	10,278,151.98
1903	6,948,073.47	14,173,863.11
1904	8,123,348.18	16,588,611.77
1905	9,778,658.22	14,098,833.15
1906	9,368,299.35	15,308,554.32

The proceeds of this Loan will in part be applied to Public Works, and also to the repayment of recent local borrowing by the Government at a higher rate of interest.

A brokerage of one quarter per cent. will be paid on all allotted applications (other than underwriting applications) on forms bearing a broker's stamp.

An official Stock Exchange quotation will be applied for in due course.

The Law authorising the issue of the Bonds and an English translation thereof, a copy of the General Bond, together with the special powers conferred by the Government on its Special Agent in London, and translations thereof, may be inspected at the offices of Mr. Charles D'Oyly Cooper (Cooper & Co.), Solicitor, 54 Gresham Street, London, E.C.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained of the London Bank of Mexico and South America, Limited, of Messrs. Chalmers, Guthrie & Co., Limited, of the Consulate-General of Salvador for Great Britain and Ireland, 7 & 8 Idol Lane, E.C., of Mr. Charles D'Oyly Cooper (Cooper & Co.), 54 Gresham Street, E.C., Solicitor for the London Bank of Mexico and South America, Limited, of Messrs. Bircham & Co., 50 Old Broad Street, E.C., Solicitors for the Trustees, and of Messrs. Coates, Son & Co., 99 Gresham Street, E.C., Brokers for the Issue.

This Prospectus is issued with the sanction and approval of the Supreme Government of the Republic of Salvador, and a Special Agent of the Government of the Republic of Salvador has written the following letter in reference to this Prospectus:—

"London, February 28, 1908.  
Messrs. Chalmers, Guthrie & Co., Limited.

"GENTLEMEN,

"I certify that the facts stated in the Prospectus annexed hereto are based on official information which I have supplied to you, and that the statements contained therein are made by my authority as the Special Agent of the Government of the Republic of Salvador, and are true to my knowledge. On behalf of the Government I hereby sanction and approve the Prospectus.

"(Signed) M. J. KELLY.

"Special Agent of the Government of the Republic of Salvador  
"Dated this 2nd day of March, 1908."

## EXPLORATION COMPANY.

THE ordinary annual general meeting of the Exploration Company, Limited, was held on Tuesday, at the Cannon Street Hotel, Cannon Street, E.C., Mr. R. T. Bayliss (Chairman and Managing Director) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. F. Wreford) read the notice convening the meeting and also the report of the auditors.

The Chairman: "Ladies and Gentlemen, I beg to move: 'That the report of the directors, with the audited statement of accounts and balance-sheet to December 31, 1907, presented to this meeting, be, and the same are hereby, received, approved, and adopted,' and I regret most sincerely that I have not a more favourable statement to put before you. I think I may assume that your interest in the report centres around the statement that our investments show a depreciation of £158,418 and that we incurred a loss during the past year of £32,458, and it is to a full explanation of these items I will first invite your attention. In view of the market depression that has prevailed for the past twelve months, I apprehend there are few, if any, shareholders who are surprised that we have to report a substantial depreciation in our investments, or who can have imagined that we alone would be exempt from the universal and persistent decline in securities of every description which marked the year 1907. I will not dwell on this point; I merely mention it in explanation of the total depreciation we have to record—namely, £158,418—of which £73,418 is due to the decline in South African gold shares and real estate and other general investments, and £85,000 to our holding of shares in copper-mining companies. Now, whilst all this depreciation is primarily due to market conditions, I separate these items because I wish to refer to the remarks I made to you at the last meeting with regard to our investments in copper. I then said that, in our opinion, 'carefully-selected shares in companies operating copper mines which had not yet reached their full capacity of production furnished one of the best, safest, and most lucrative channels for the employment of capital.' That was a deliberate view that we took after careful consultation with parties largely interested in the copper industry, and capable of taking a long view of the position. That we were right it would be idle for me to argue to-day, in the face of the course of the market since that date; but that the view we took was fundamentally sound, and will ultimately prevail, I have no doubt whatever. Moreover, I wish to say that the investments so made were not based upon any extravagant opinion with regard to the future quotation for copper, but will all yield substantial returns on an average price for the metal of £65 per ton. The depreciation we have to record on these investments is exceptionally severe, for the reason that, with one exception, the copper mines in the United States in which we are interested suspended operations in September last in consequence of the abnormal condition of the copper industry prevailing in that country at that time. Now I use the word 'abnormal' advisedly, for I do not believe that the United States, with its vast and rapidly-increasing population, can afford to be deprived of nearly one-half of its copper supply indefinitely, and with a return to normal conditions, which I do not think will be long delayed, this depreciation should be recovered almost as quickly as it has been incurred. An indication of that return to normal conditions is, I think, already to be seen in the announcements which have reached us from New York during the past three days, to the effect that the Washoe smelting plant of the Amalgamated Copper Company, which is situated at Anaconda, is again being put into operation, and that will bring the Anaconda, the North Butte, and the Butte Coalition Mines of Butte into the productive stage again. Now, giving the gentlemen at the head of the Amalgamated Copper Company credit for ordinary common-sense—and I do not think they are deficient in that—one can hardly assume they would have taken the step of restarting the Anaconda Mine after it had once been closed down unless they saw some indication of a renewed demand for copper in the United States. The balance of the depreciation—namely, £73,418—is due, as stated in the report, to the general market conditions prevailing during the year, of which I am afraid you have all had experience that renders

further explanation from me unnecessary. Now, with regard to the loss shown in the accounts. The item £11,082 brought into the profit and loss account as 'gross profits' represents the balance between the money we made and the sums we lost during the past year. The total income from all sources during that period, including profits on sales of shares, was £20,580; but I am very sorry to say that losses amounting to £69,107, sustained in the realisation of securities, reduced the gross profits to the £11,082 I have just mentioned, and the bulk of this loss, or £6,600, was due to the purchase and subsequent sale of some Amalgamated Copper, Anaconda, and other shares in the United States. These purchases were the result of urgent advice emanating from a source in which we have always had the greatest confidence, and one that in the past we have followed with invariable success, and, moreover, being in accord with our own view of the copper industry at that time, we did not hesitate to follow it again. Unfortunately, the course of events proved this advice to have been based upon a mistaken view of the general market position, and as soon as this became evident to us we thought it right to realise these shares and to take the loss." Having run through the figures in the profit and loss account and the balance-sheet, the Chairman continued: "What may I say to you, gentlemen, regarding the future? Of course, everything depends upon the general financial and market conditions, and whilst the experience of the past year makes me very disinclined to prophesy, I do not think you will regard me as unduly sanguine if I express the belief that we have seen the worst of the period of ruthless depression through which we are passing, and that the future, particularly in mining, which is our special business, is full of hope and encouragement. That there will be a pronounced improvement in the position of the copper industry before long, and probably long before most people think, I have little doubt; for, studying past history, we find the world's consumption of copper for the last ten years for which records are obtainable has increased from 435,000 tons to 730,000 tons per annum, and unless one believes that the consumption of copper will henceforward remain stationary, and that we have exhausted the uses and application of electrical power, and that a general disarmament is going to take place all over the world, and that we are on the verge of the millennium—unless you believe that, there must be some such similar rate of progression in the consumption of copper in the future, and where the supply is to come from to meet this inevitable demand I do not know. Then as to our mining properties in Mexico I take a very favourable view of the future. I think you will all quite understand that it has not been a pleasant review for me to make; but I wish you to take it for what it is intended to be—namely, a plain, candid statement of the position. Disagreeable as the position is, it is my earnest wish to put it quite frankly and fairly before the shareholders. In considering this report I would ask you to bear in mind the conditions which have prevailed during the period I have just been reviewing; and I wish you to go a little further than that and ask you, when you are considering the past history of this Company, to consider the conditions that have prevailed since its reconstruction four years ago, and I think you will realise that for a Company of this sort, which, after all, is essentially a promoting Company, the conditions which are absolutely necessary for continued prosperity and great success are good times, active markets, and a general spirit of enterprise—speculation, if you like—on the part of the public. I fancy we are all pretty well agreed that the bad times we have been going through are coming to an end, or, at any rate, that we have seen the worst of them, and therefore I am looking forward to some improvement in the conditions which will make it more easy and render it more possible for us to engage in what is our natural business—namely, the purchase and promotion of mining properties—and enable us in the near future, or, at least in the course of a year or two, to make up for these depressing and impossible times that we have passed through during the past four or five years."

Mr. Francis A. Lucas seconded the motion, which, after long discussion, was put to the meeting and declared carried unanimously.



The Great Northern Central Railway of Colombia, Limited, are issuing a Prospectus, which states amongst other things that  
*The Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.*

The **SUBSCRIPTION LIST** will **OPEN ON SATURDAY, the 7th March, 1908, and CLOSE** on or before  
**TUESDAY, 10th March, 1908.**

## THE GREAT NORTHERN CENTRAL RAILWAY OF COLOMBIA, LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862-1900.)

The Company have been authorised by the Colombian Government to issue First Mortgage Bonds in respect of the first 54 kilometres of the Railway to the total amount of £518,400, carrying interest at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum, such Bonds being guaranteed by the Government as below mentioned. Bonds of such issue to the amount of £38,500 have been applied for by the Directors and their friends, and will be issued to them.

### ISSUE OF £153,500 5½ PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS

(part of the above-mentioned authorised issue), in 7,675 Bonds to Bearer of £20 each, and being part of a total issue of like Bonds to the amount of £9,600 per kilometre of Railway to be constructed from Puerto Wilches, on the River Magdalena, to Bucaramanga, of an estimated length of 154 kilometres, all of which will rank *pari passu*.

A full half-year's interest will be paid in London on the 1st July next, and thereafter on the 1st January and 1st July.

All these Bonds will be secured by a first specific charge on the Railway to be constructed from Puerto Wilches to Bucaramanga under the Charter granted by the Colombian Government, and which is referred to below, and on any sums to be received in respect thereof in the event of purchase by the Government, and on the Government guarantee granted in respect thereof of 2,800 Gold Dollars (£360) a kilometre per annum for 99 years in respect of such Railway, and by a first floating charge on the remainder of the Company's undertaking and assets.

The Interest and Sinking Fund in respect of these Bonds are secured by the guarantee of the Colombian Government for 99 years, which is itself secured by a special hypothecation of 5 per cent. of the proceeds of the Customs on the Atlantic Ports, such percentage being paid monthly to the Central Bank of Colombia, by whom it will be remitted quarterly to the Company's Bankers in London, for the service of the Bonds.

The revenues of the Customs on the Atlantic Ports have considerably increased in recent years. In 1906 they amounted to £1,220,000, on which sum the 5 per cent. earmarked for the service of these Bonds would be £61,000.

This Government guarantee is sufficient, after providing for the interest on the Bonds, to enable the Company to redeem 80 Bonds per kilometre within 30 years, and the balance within 95 years from the 1st January, 1910, thus securing a return of the principal moneys secured by the Bonds by the time the Railway becomes the property of the Government.

The Company reserves the right at any time hereafter to create further Bonds at a rate not exceeding £9,600 per kilometre, in respect of each of the two further sections of the Railway, as provided by the Charter. Such Bonds may be specifically charged upon the whole or any portion of the second and third sections of the Railway, and on any sums to be received in respect thereof in the event of the purchase by the Government, and on the Government guarantee granted in respect thereof in priority to the Bonds of this series, but so far only as the floating charge is concerned will rank *pari passu* with the Bonds of this issue.

THE GREAT NORTHERN CENTRAL RAILWAY OF COLOMBIA (Limited) have authorised the London and South-Western Bank (Limited), 170 Fenchurch Street, London, E.C., and Branches, Bankers of the Company, to receive applications for the above mentioned Bonds for £153,500 at the price of 77 per cent. or £15 8s. per Bond, payable:—

5 p.c. ...	£1 0 0	per Bond of £20 on application.
20 p.c. ...	£4 0 0	" " on allotment.
25 p.c. ...	£5 0 0	" " one month after allotment.
27 p.c. ...	£5 8 0	" " three months after allotment.
77 p.c. ...	£15 8 0	

thus yielding at the issue price 7 per cent.

Bearer Scrip will be issued to be exchanged for Bonds on payment of the final instalment.

Payment in full on Allotment or on the date fixed for payment of the next instalment can be made under discount at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum.

The Great Northern Central Railway of Colombia (Limited) has been formed under the British Companies Acts, for the purpose of acquiring a Charter and Supplemental Charter (which it has since acquired), granted by the Government of the Republic of Colombia, for the construction, equipment, and working of a railway from Puerto Wilches to Bogotá, estimated at about 500 kilometres, the first section from Puerto Wilches to Bucaramanga being about 154 kilometres. The route proposed to be followed by the Railway is divided into three Sections, namely:—

The First Section from Puerto Wilches on the River Magdalena to Bucaramanga. The Second Section from Bucaramanga to the boundary of the old Department of Boyacá.

The Third Section from thence to Bogotá, the Capital of Colombia. The Company will in the first instance construct the first Section, and the present issue will enable the Company to proceed with the construction of the first twenty kilometres.

This Charter, the provisions of which are most liberal, has been granted by the Colombian Government with the object of affording facilities for connecting the Interior with the Atlantic Coast, and will thus enable the rich mineral resources of the country and the fertile agricultural regions through which the line will pass to be developed.

The Provinces to be served by the Railway contain a population of some 2,000,000 people, the climate for the most part is excellent, and there are everywhere plentiful supplies of good water. There is no doubt that railroad facilities are urgently needed for passenger traffic and for the transport of agricultural products, live stock, ores, and other merchandise.

On account of its exceptional situation, Colombia is able to command trade on both the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts, and being rich in natural resources is a rapidly developing country. Its credit under the able administration of President Reyes has materially improved, and is now considered to be firmly established.

Owing to its geographical position the railway should become one of the most important trunk lines in the Southern States of America.

The principal provisions of the Charter are as follows:—

1. The period for which the Charter has been granted is 99 years (during the last 40 years of which the profits will be equally divided between the Company and the Colombian Government), subject to the right of the Government to purchase the railway at any time after the expiration of 30 years, the price to be fixed by arbitration, but in no case is such price to be less than the amount of the value of the Bonds issued by the Company. When the traffic on any section of the railway produces during ten consecutive years a sufficient sum to cover the interest guaranteed for that section, the guarantee of interest will then terminate for that section.

2. A guarantee sufficient to pay the interest on all the Bonds to be issued by the Company, and to provide a Sinking Fund for the redemption of the Bonds in 95 years. The Government have specifically allocated 5 per cent. of the Customs Receipts of the Atlantic Ports for the payment of this guarantee. These receipts amounted in 1906 to £1,220,000.

3. A grant of 300 hectares, about 750 acres, of freehold land for every kilometre of railway built and opened for traffic. The Company retains two-thirds of this, the remaining one-third going to the original Concessionaires.

4. A preferential right of acquiring and working mines discovered or claimed by the Company, other than emerald mines, within a distance of 40 kilometres on either side of the railway.

5. Should the gross receipts from the railway prove insufficient to meet the working expenses, the Government will make up the deficiency, in addition to paying the full guaranteed interest. Any surplus up to the amount of the guarantee will belong to the Government.

The Charter exempts the Company from:—

- (a) Import duties on all railway materials, rolling stock, machinery, telegraph and telephone apparatus, and all articles for the construction and maintenance of the railway.
- (b) Payment of any National, Departmental, or Municipal Tax, and
- (c) Registration and Annotation Duties on Deeds, Documents, and Transfers.

In the event of the Railway not being completed within the period of 12 years, such portion of the line as shall have already been built will remain the property of the Company, and the guarantee on the Bonds issued in respect of the line so constructed will continue.

In accordance with the provisions of the Charter the Company has deposited £20,000 in cash, as a guarantee for the fulfilment of its obligations. Mr. J. Fletcher Roemer, A.M.I.C.E., who has had large experience of railway construction in Mexico, has completed the survey of the railway from Puerto Wilches to Bucaramanga, 154 kilometres; he reports that there are no serious engineering difficulties, and that the net earnings will, in his opinion, after allowing a reasonable time for the development of traffic, be sufficient to relieve the Government from payment of any interest guaranteed in respect of this section.

The Directors have received the following letter from the Special Agent of the Colombian Government in London:—

"To the Directors of the Great Northern Central Railway of Colombia (Limited),  
 "130 Dashwood House, London, E.C."

"Gentlemen,—I have perused the Prospectus of this date, to be issued by your Company, and I have pleasure in informing you that the statements contained therein relating to the terms of the Charter granted by my Government and held by your Company, and of the Guarantee of interest are correct.

"I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

"DOMINGO ESGUERRA,

"Special Agent of the Colombian Government.

"London, March 4, 1908."

The above Charter and Supplemental Charter, and Contracts mentioned in the Prospectus, and copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and a form of the Bond to be issued by the Company, may be inspected at the offices of the Solicitors to the Company on any day before the closing of the Subscription List between the hours of 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Application for a special settlement in, and a quotation for, the Bonds of this issue will in due course be made to the Stock Exchange, London.

Full Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained at the offices of the Company, or from the Bankers, Solicitors, or Brokers of the Company.

March 4, 1908.

#### Directors.

T. PENN GASKELL (Chairman), 14 Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.  
 (Director of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company, Limited).

The Hon. ARTHUR G. BRAND, 12 Clarges Street, London, W. (Director of the Carlton Hotel, Limited).

Prince ALPHONSE DE CHIMAY, Chimay, Belgium.

N. GRATTAN DOYLE, Loughbrow, Hexham, Northumberland (Chairman of the National Fibres Corporation, Limited).

JULIO PATINO, 6 Lancaster Street, Hyde Park, London, W. (Colombian Advocate).

#### Bankers.

THE LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN BANK (LIMITED), 170  
 Fenchurch Street, London, E.C., and Branches.

#### Solicitors.

ASHURST, MORRIS, CRISP & CO., 17 Throgmorton Avenue, London, E.C.

#### Brokers.

LEONARD CLOW & CO., 22 Austin Friars, London, E.C.  
 TODD & GREGORY, Prudential Buildings, Newcastle-on-Tyne.  
 F. FERGUSON PAGE, 32a Brown Street, Manchester.

#### Auditors.

JACKSON, PIXLEY, BROWNING, HUSEY & CO., 53 Coleman Street,  
 London, E.C.

#### Secretary.

WILLIAM CHAPLIN.

#### Offices (pro tem).

130 Dashwood House, New Broad Street, London, E.C.

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